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SUMMARY OF NEWS.

— 563 —

Politics of Europe.

New Marriage Act.—The new Marriage Act appears, after some interruptions, to be likely to become the law of the land. We are somewhat loath to introduce a ludicrous comparison on a serious subject, but our simile applies rather to persons than to things. Our readers may recollect the account of the creaking hinge in *Tristram Shandy*. None expressed greater dissatisfaction with the noise it made, than the irritable old gentleman Mr. Shandy himself; and yet, though master of the house, he took no step to remedy the evil of which he complained. But it is yet more striking than this, to observe the obstructions thrown in the way of the new act by those whom we have heard to lament the hardships often inflicted by the old one.

"Si quid novisti rectius istis

"Candidus imperti; si non, his utere mecum."

Such might be the language used by the friends of the proposed marriage act to the gravest of its opponents.

When we speak of the insufficiency of the old act, we should be very sorry if it went abroad, that the obligatory nature of many marriages was effected by their imperfect solemnization in our Church. As to the great body of the people, the rite is such as it should be: and, indeed, with the words of our Blessed Saviour before them, it was hardly possible for legislators to fail wholly of binding "one man to one woman so long as they both should live." The wonder is, that the sacred obligation should have been eluded so often as has recently occurred, for causes unconnected with that which is alone sufficient to untie the marriage knot—namely, the commission of the crime of adultery. Really when one hears people declaim about the happiness of families being disturbed by improper matches, one might almost be induced to fancy that some men or women had married creatures of a different species from their own. To glance but slightly at the real subjects of disparity between parties marrying, what are they? Birth, fortune, education. We shall treat of another separately and hereafter. Now, with respect to birth, we are almost ashamed to discuss such a point, in a country, the laws of which profess to consider all as equal; but when public morals have reached such a state of corruption, that the only real distinction between man and man—namely, those of merit and virtue—vanish, and fictitious ones are set up in their stead, it is necessary to estimate the comparative value of those fictitious distinctions. With respect to birth, then, is marriage the only way by which people of low extraction raise themselves to importance? And if it were proper that this avenue should be shut up, or narrowed by legislative interference, why not block up or contract the rest? Beauty is a kind of talent to those who possess it, and to restrain its influence on account of the predominance which it imparts, is but a futile attempt to counteract the law of nature, which will either openly or surreptitiously enforce obedience to its ordinances, in spite of the feeble impertinence of human legislation.

Disparity of fortune is the next object of consideration. Now with respect to this, it may, perhaps, be a family grievance, if the heir should happen, in the ardour of unsubdued passion, to marry a peasant's daughter; but it is well known that the equalization of wealth by this or any other method is a public or national advantage, because it forces all to personal exertions,

and increases the aggregate production of the state. As to disparity of education—that does not exist much in the present day; and at all times it was a very remediable evil when the parties married young; a person of good understanding, under 21 years of age, being capable in a very short time of rendering herself, particularly under the operation of that first love which induced her husband to choose her, a companion for the wisest, the most refined, and most accomplished of mankind:

"And when the soft passions are all at an end,

"From beautiful mistress, turn sensible friend."

It is clear, therefore that there is nothing in any of these causes that should induce a Christian Legislature to swerve from or relax that law of our nature and of our religion, which indissolubly binds one man to one woman, "so long as they both shall live."

But there is another pretext for this wicked anxiety to provide the means of evasion from the marriage contract, the discussion of which we have reserved for the last. Young men are induced to marry clandestinely, and without the knowledge of their parents, and in an unguarded moment, &c. &c. &c. young women of loose character, whose innocence, perhaps, they themselves may have seduced. Now, before we discuss this point farther, we should like to know whether, of those who marry improperly in this respect—that is, who marry mistresses, there is a greater number of young or of old men?—of men under 21, or above 50? We will cast out of our consideration the fact that the younger tribe are the more numerous, inasmuch as many men die off before they reach a mature age; and even with that allowance, we suspect "the fifties have it." Why, then, are you to guard the indiscretion of youth against that which the prudence of age is committing every day? Marriage in our church is not what is called a sacrament—a word, by the way, which is not to be found in the Holy Scripture—but it is a religious ceremony; and it ought to be considered as sanctifying those who have partaken of it: if the woman sin afterwards, the man has his remedy: if not, he—the husband at least—ought not upon foreign pretext to be allowed to separate himself from one whom he had purified by leading to the altar. But farther, if marriages of this nature are evils, which no one can deny, is their frequency likely to be prevented by the facility with which they may be dissolved? How monstrous! No, we reply. Render marriage indissoluble for any other cause except that which the Author of our religion has allowed, and you render it more awful. The youthful mind above all others will be more appalled at incurring its obligations; it is by opening loop-holes of evasion that you induce the young to enter heedlessly into that path. Above all, do not suffer any one to avail himself of his own wrong, and plead the ill which he has knowingly committed whilst forming the contract, as a reason for its dissolution! Do not suffer others, for sordid purposes, to vitiate a marriage under which the parties themselves lived as valid and binding, and under which the children naturally claim that which their parents enjoyed.

But there is another point, upon which we wish we were as certain of giving effect to our opinion as we feel that it is just. It seems that persons are induced to commit perjury by swearing falsely to their being of age, or to the consent of parents, in order to obtain licenses for marriage. That this is a vast evil, there

can be no doubt: but how is it created? Answer.—By human legislation. Why are any men obliged to swear, in order to obtain permission to marry? Nine-tenths of the kingdom—the most pure and virtuous part of it—among whom a dissolution of the marriage contract rarely takes place, are united in matrimony without taking any oath at all. But some, it seems, cannot be so married. They are to have a license, a license to do what? A license to be married in as secret and clandestine a manner as possible, with as little knowledge of the church as possible, and therefore under as great a temptation as possible to practice fraud. Can any rational reason be assigned why a ceremony that is to take place in the church should not be announced in the church? But further, we entreat any Member of either House of Parliament to send to Doctors' Commons, or to any neighbouring parish church, and obtain one of these licenses. He will there find on reading it, that whilst it is complained that some men swear falsely, all men who choose to be married by license are obliged to swear foolishly to some such absurdity as the following—that “they were not engaged to be married in the year 1754”—the time when the last marriage act was passed! Can any solemnity whatever be attached to such an instrument as this? We wish the power of marrying by license were suppressed; the clergymen would then only have to ascertain the residence of the parties in his parish: and, at all events, the process, if it continue, should be rendered rational and intelligible.

—Times.

London, June 21, 1822.—We have received a file of Lisbon papers from the 3d to the 8th instant inclusive, but have looked through them in vain for any further details of importance respecting the conspiracy lately detected and frustrated. We find the *Diário do Governo* of the 7th, a high eulogium on the Minister of Justice for his vigilance, firmness, and promptitude in defeating the designs of the disaffected, but no fresh particulars afforded by which to estimate the magnitude of the danger which was threatened, or the specific services by which it was averted. The Cortes continue to discuss the articles of the constitution in as protracted a manner, as if they thought that to make a constitution was to enjoy it; and believed their pleasure, like that of a sportsman, consisted more in the exercise of the chase, than in the possession of the game. By this slowness and deliberation, they at least show, that they do not debate amid alarms of violence, and that they fear no interruption of their labours from plots in the court, or disaffection in the army.

The following is the only article in these papers that alludes to the late attempt to disturb the public peace.

“The conspiracy, so fortunately discovered, has not excited so much sensation here as might have been feared: only four conspirators appear to have been arrested, and two of these are servants, M. Januario das Neves, formerly Under Secretary to Lord Beresford, with some others of his own rank, being discontented with the present state of things, formed a plan to overthrow the constitution. The first object was to gain the army; but it was necessary first to find some officer of rank to head them, and they fixed on General Luiz do Rego Barello as likely to join them. Januario accordingly applied to him; but he declined giving a decisive answer, and desired him to return at a certain hour the following day. The Minister of Justice was then made acquainted with the circumstance, and Januario developed the plot before concealed witnesses. He was immediately taken up. No person of high rank is named as being implicated, but many are suspected—whether with or without sufficient reason will doubtless appear hereafter, when the affair shall be fully investigated.”

By the American ship *ANNA AND HOPE*, which has arrived in the Channel from China, we have received accounts from that country to the 19th February. The letters which she brings, though numerous, add little to our former knowledge respecting the state of the negotiations for adjusting the differences between the British Factory and the Chinese authorities, arising out of the late affray; but, happily, they all concur in anticipating a favourable result. We must, therefore, still remain in suspense—though a suspense less anxious than the former—till the arrival of the *KENT*,

which was to sail from China on the 26th of February, and which, according to accounts that reached town yesterday, is supposed to have been seen off Penzance. It was naturally to be supposed that the Hong merchants, who derive such advantages from their trade with us, would exert themselves to prevent their profits from being endangered by a final rupture; and that the wealth of such a body must always be powerful enough to command some attention from the agents of their Government, who, though absurdly proud and repulsive to foreigners, have no strong antipathy to presents, and are not inaccessible to corruption. It therefore always appeared probable, that an arrangement might be formed by some diplomatic fiction, by which we might be enabled to obtain Hyson and Nankeens without sacrificing our countrymen; and the Viceroy of Canton might get broad cloth and Spanish dollars without a surrender of national honour. The great danger arose from the previous compliance of the Americans with a demand which we thought it our duty to resist, and their disposition to foment the quarrel, in order to take advantage of a trade which we might be called upon to forfeit. To this latter cause we may no doubt ascribe a report in some of the letters to American houses, that the negotiations were likely to terminate unfavourably, and that in consequence several English vessels had been ordered to ports in India.

Valencia, June 4.—We have been under some alarm here in consequence of a party of artillery having possessed themselves of the citadel, expecting to find their views seconded by the military and inhabitants. They were however mistaken, and were compelled to surrender to the militia and other troops after three hours' resistance, and are now under trial of a court-martial. Every thing is perfectly quiet, and we trust will continue so. [This is the manner in which the late disturbances at Valencia are spoken of by a merchant of that city, rendering it evident how much exaggeration has been introduced into the previous accounts.]

Gibraltar, May 30.—Extract of a letter:—“I am sorry to acquaint you, that by the arrival of a vessel in 7 days from Oran, we have the unpleasant intelligence of the plague having again broken out at Algiers. There has been no recent arrival here from Algiers, and I suppose the Governor here will wait for an official communication from the Consul-general, before he adopts rigorous restrictions. I view this occurrence with extreme concern, not only as it affects our intercourse with that regency, but as it must eventually cramp our commerce with the whole of South Barbary, which was beginning to assume a very favourable aspect.”

Bank Directors.—A very lively sensation was produced yesterday on the Royal Exchange by an intimation that the Court of Bank Directors had, at the usual meeting of the morning, adopted the resolution of lowering the rate of discount and of receiving bills in future at 4 per cent. This measure, which has for a long period been anxiously solicited of the Bank by the monied and mercantile interests, and which has been also, it is understood, urgently required of them by Government, had been so long withheld, that when announced it was quite unexpected. The motives of the Bank, for selecting this period, probably are, that after the present month the reduction of the interest on the navy 5 per cents. will be completed, and as there will then remain no 5 per cent. stock of the Government, a higher rate could not be with propriety asked for commercial discounts. On the funds and on the foreign securities circulating in this country this measure is likely to produce some effect, nearly all of them having experienced an advance in value soon after it was announced. Consols for the account, which in the morning stood at 80½ left off at 81½. No time is lost by the Bank in carrying their resolution into effect, as the new measure will be in full operation on Monday next.

Mr. Kiesewetter's Concert.—The amateurs were much gratified on Wednesday night, at the new Argyll Rooms, when Mr. Kiesewetter gave his benefit concert. It is but justice to this gentleman to say, that he is a complete master of his instrument. The force and propriety of his expressions is above all remarkable, whence is occasionally imparted to his style a degree of

pathos, of which the instrument in other hands is seldom found capable. It is said that Mr. Kiesewetter meditates shortly quitting this country, but he has every inducement that patronage and popularity can offer to remain here, and we trust he will be induced to change his intention. Mr. Kiesewetter was assisted by the most distinguished vocal and instrumental performers; and Mr. Moschelles, of Vienna, the celebrated pianoforte player, played a duet for two grand pianofortes with J. B. Cramer, which was very highly applauded.

Population of Sussex.—An official return to an order of the House of Commons of the total population and number of persons receiving relief from the poor rates in four parishes in the county of Sussex, states as follows:—In the parish of Northiam, total population according to the last census, 1,358; number of paupers 636. Salehurst population, 2,121; paupers, 1,062. Burwash population, 1,937; paupers, 1,056. Mayfield population, 2,698; paupers, 1,391. Thus the number of paupers exceeds more than half the amount of the whole population in each of these four parishes.

Southwark Anniversary Dinner.—It was Mr. Weatherstone who, at the Southwark Anniversary Dinner, proposed the health of the chairman, and not Mr. Wetherspoon, as given in our report.

Mansion House.—Reported Plague in London.—Yesterday Mr. Crocker and Mr. Coleman, Common Councilmen of Bread-street Ward, waited upon the Lord-Mayor, and showed to his Lordship an obscure morning newspaper, in which an account had been published, headed "The Plague," and stating that that scourge had made its appearance in one of the hospitals: that one patient had died under decisive appearances, and that, in consequence, the hospital had been closed, and all persons, except medical men, carefully excluded. This statement was followed by an account of the dreadful ravages the plague was now making in Algiers, which had been nearly depopulated by it. The association doubled the effect, and the gentlemen stated that most extensive terror had already been occasioned by it; and such was the sensation created in the city, as well as at the west end of the town, that a number of prudent people had packed up their goods, and others had actually fled, to avoid the dreadful state of things that was anticipated in the city. The gentlemen urgently requested his Lordship, that he would take such means as were in his power, to ascertain whether there was any foundation in the statement; that, if true, proper measures might be taken; or if it turned out to be unfounded, that such a public contradiction might be given, as would put a stop to the alarm that was created by it, and which was spreading with rapidity.

The LORD MAYOR said, that an immediate investigation ought certainly to be made into so serious a matter. His Lordship sent two of the marshals, Fogg and Leadbetter, the one to St. Thomas's, and the other to St. Bartholomew's hospital, with instructions to inquire of the medical gentlemen, the truth of the statement that had been published, and also of the state of the hospitals. Fogg and Leadbetter soon returned, and stated that having inquired of the medical gentlemen at both places, they had been assured in answer, that the hospitals were never more free at such a period from infectious diseases, nor were fevers less prevalent than at the present time. Nor had they heard of any thing that could have given the slightest foundation for such a report.

The LORD MAYOR expressed his surprise that any of the conductors of the public press should insert a statement fraught with such extensive mischief as that complained of, without taking care that it was properly authenticated, especially as a very little trouble would in the present case have been sufficient to ascertain that the report was totally devoid of foundation.

The gentlemen expressed their joy at the answer which they had received, and agreed that no terms could be strong enough to characterize the conduct of the author of the report, or of the wanton negligence of the publishers, which induced a belief that they were indifferent to the truth, although confirmation might be obtained with so little trouble. They thanked his Lordship for his attention, and retired.

The report may, perhaps, have originated from the circumstance of a passage through St. Bartholomew's Hospital, which had been long a thoroughfare, having been closed recently against the public, or to all who had not business with the hospital. Some persons have probably been unable to account for the gates, which were usually open, having been suddenly closed, but upon the supposition that some contagious disorder was in existence, and have concluded that the disorder was the plague. —*Times*, June 22.

Brussels, June 17.—The court of assizes at Treves, by a sentence delivered on the 7th instant, has declared M. P. A. Fonck, merchant of Cologne, guilty of the murder committed in his cellar, on the person of W. Coenan, in the night of the 9th of November, 1816, and has condemned him to death.

A new division of emigrants, chiefly from the countries on the Maine, set out from Frankfort on the 4th instant, for Holland, where they will embark for Brazil. They amount to 120 persons of both sexes, who take with them their whole property.

Hague, June 15.—*Second Chamber of the States General.*—A Royal Message was read, accompanying a project of law relative to the means of entirely filling up the deficiency in the revenue, and of providing for all the urgent wants of the public Treasury. The following are extracts from his Majesty's Message:—

"High and Mighty Lords,—Your High Mightinesses have requested us to reconsider the proposal addressed to your assembly by us on the 30th of January last, for the purpose of providing for the arrears, and of meeting divers extraordinary expenses.

"As this proposal, the result of two years' mature deliberation, tended not only to realize those views without any new burden to the nation, but was to ensure to it great advantages, we were persuaded, and are so still, that it would have fulfilled this object: and we shall always feel great satisfaction that this proposal will be enrolled among the acts of our reign, as a durable testimony of our solicitude for the interest and welfare of our subjects.

"Your High Mightinesses will therefore be easily persuaded, that we have learned with the most lively regret the result of your deliberations on this proposal, which caused a great part of those flattering hopes to vanish, which we had conceived respecting the financial situation of the kingdom, and which we communicated to your Assembly in our message of the 28th of May last."

His Majesty then expresses his regret that he is obliged to substitute onerous measures for such as would have been advantageous; and that to meet expenses which are left unprovided for, he finds it necessary to add a capital sum of 57,500,000 florins to the active debt, which will produce in the budget a new annual burden of 1,725,000 florins. It is extremely painful to his Majesty to propose such measures after the hopes which he cherished but a few days ago; but he has no other alternative. His Majesty, will, however, continue his exertions for the general welfare; and, with the aid of the States, hopes to hasten the period when the public burdens may be diminished.

Schaffhausen, June 7.—The Court of Baden has communicated to the Confederation the measures already adopted in part, by way of reprisal, against France on account of its rigorous prohibitory system. The question whether similar measures would be advantageous to Switzerland will be discussed in the next Diet.

St. Petersburg, May 29.—His Majesty left us on the 20th to go to Wilna, Witepsk, &c. to review the guards cantoned there, but will be back by the 13th of June.

Wilna, May 28.—The Russian post of the 31st, which arrived yesterday (the first that has come so early to Hamburg since the new regulations), states that the Emperor of Russia is not expected to stay long at St. Petersburg after his return from Wilna, but to set out almost immediately for a foreign capital.

Life and its Hopes.

I launch'd my bark upon a waveless sea—
The morning glow'd, the sun, just risen, shone
In dazzling light along the glassy plain,
That seem'd a golden mirror, or as oft
A transient zephyr ruffled it, a flood
Of molten amber. How the purple soil,
And blue and crimson streamer woo'd the wind!
At times the swelling bosom of the sheet
Receiv'd the rising gale, and onward bore
The white and glittering prow, as through the wave
It plough'd and heav'd around the crested foam,
Like snow-wreaths resting on a ground of gold.
Again the rising zephyr died away,
The boundless air was still, the canvas flapp'd
And trembled on the yard, the streamers droop'd
And fluttering wav'd around the mast-head:—sea
And air were motionless—the crystal flood
Open'd its awful depths beneath—so clear,
The bark seem'd hanging in the midway space
Between the sky above and earth below:
So still the elements, the briny drop,
That trickled from the prow to meet the wave,
Was heard distinctly, and the rippling shoal
Or blue-finn'd mack'el, or the whispering flight
Of the air-loving dweller of the deep,
Fell on my ear and woke me from my dream.
So pass'd the bark of life o'er childhood's sea,
But youth came on, and blustering winds arose;
Dark tempests gather'd round; the hoaling blast
Roar'd through the cordage; every sail was rent;
The loos'n'd helm gave way, and like the steed,
Madden'd with luxury, that flies the rein
And hurries on to ruin, so the bark
Ran wild before the tempest; now it rose
The billowy mountain; in the yawning gulph
Now headlong plung'd; the shriek was then unheard
Amid the faster tumult; then the night
Of storms enwrap'd me, by the bursting foam,
The sparkling fire of ocean, or the flash,
The harbinger of thunder, or the pale
And baleful meteor of sickly green,
That on the bowsprit led the way to death.—
Alone illumin'd. What a deafening roar
From bursting billows! how the breaker's voice,
Conflicting with the sea-beat crag, arose,
And bellow'd through the gloom! the sea dog there
Mounted above his danger, howl'd and bay'd;
The dying whale, dash'd on the solitary rock,
Groan'd out his giant soul; the cormorant
Flapp'd his black wings around my head, the loon,
Perch'd on the top-mast, sent his baleful scream,
Like the mad moanings of a tortur'd man.
So rag'd the storm around me, till a light,
Dimly discover'd through the darkness, show'd,
Where help might yet be found; a secret hand
Then seem'd to grasp the rudder; o'er the waves
The bark right onward held its steady course;
The tempest seem'd to mitigate its rage;
The thunders ceas'd; the clouds spread out their veil
In thinner folds, and through a transient break
Sent a faint gleam of sunshine; from behind
A gentle wind blew steady; in the west
The golden sky shone out, and finer "crescents"
Of brightness every instant open'd, till
The sun unveil'd his face, and far away
The tempest hurried o'er the mountain waves:
It darkling—flew, till on its bosom rose
The many-colour'd bow; serenity
Then fill'd the air, the white gull o'er me flew,
And the blue halcyon came upon the wave,—
Alighted, hid its head beneath its wing,
And slept as on a pillow; still the sea
Lifted its broad green back and seem'd to rock
Its fury to repose. I near'd the land;
Blue hills first smil'd, then sandy shores, like snow
Bleach'd on the heavenward mountain, caught my eye,
The light house next, that with its warming fire,
Greets from the deep the wanderer to his home.
The sun in cloudless majesty, as king
Of nature, kindled ocean with his rays,
And made the land more lovely. On I sail'd,
The haven spread its arms to call me in,

And clasp me to its bosom; there I steer'd.
Hoping to anchor, where no storm could rage,
Nor tempest rock me, on the peaceful breast
Of Love supreme, and moor my bark for ever.

MINERVA.

Poetic Sketches.

ST. GEORGE'S HOSPITAL, HYDE-PARK CORNER.

These are familiar things, and yet how few
Think of this misery!—

I left the crowded street and the fresh day,
And entered the dark dwelling, where Death was
A daily visitant,—where sickness shed
Its weary languor o'er each fevered couch.
There was a sickly light, whose glimmer showed
Many a shape of misery: there lay
The victims of disease, writhing with pain;
And low faint groans, and breathings short and deep,
Each gasp a heartfelt agony, were all
That broke the stillness.—There was one, whose brow
Dark with hot climates, and gashed o'er with scars,
Told of the toiling march, the battle-rush,
Where sabres flashed, the red shot flew, and not
One ball or blow but did destruction's work:
But then his heart was high, and his pulse beat
Proudly and fearlessly:—now he was worn
With many a long day's suffering,—and death's
A fearful thing when we must count its steps.
And was this, then, the end of those sweet dreams,
Of home, of happiness, of quiet years
Spent in the little valley which has been
So long his land of promise? Farewell all
Gentle remembrances and cherished hopes!
His race was run, but its goal was the grave.—
I looked upon another, wasted, pale,
With eyes all heavy in the sleep of death:
Yet she was lovely,—the cold damps hang
Upon a brow like marble, and her eyes,
Though dim, had yet their beautiful blue tinge.
Neglected as it was, her long fair hair
Was like the plumage of the dove, and spread
Its waving curls like gold upon her pillow.
Her face was a sweet ruin. She had loved,
Trusted, and been betrayed! In other days,
Had but her cheek looked pale, how tenderly
Fond hearts had watched it! They were far away,
She was a stranger in her loneliness,
And sinking to the grave of that worst ill
A broken heart.—And there was one, whose cheek
Was flushed with fever,—'twas a face that seemed
Familiar to my memory,—'twas one
Whom I had loved in youth. In days long past,
How many glorious structures we had raised
Upon Hope's sandy basis! Genius gave
To him its golden treasures: he could pour
His own impassioned soul upon the lyre;
Or, with a painter's skill, create such shapes
Of loveliness, they were more like the hues
Of the rich evening shadows, than the work
Of human touch. But he was wayward, wild;
And hopes that in his heart's warm summer clime
Flourished, were quickly withered in the cold
And dull realities of life; he was
Too proud, too visionary for this world,
And feelings which, like waters unconfined,
Had carried with them freshness and green beauty,
Thrown back upon themselves, spread desolation
On their own banks. He was a sacrifice,
And sank beneath neglect; his glowing thoughts
Were fires that preyed upon himself. Perhaps,
For he has left some high memorials, Fame
Will pour its sunlight o'er the picture, when
The Artist's hand is mouldering in the dust,
And fling the laurel o'er a harp, whose chords
Are dumb for ever. But his eyes he raised
Mutely to mine—he knew my voice again,
And every vision of his boyhood rushed
Over his soul; his lip was deadly pale,
But pride was yet upon its haughty curve;—
He raised one hand contemptuously, and seemed
As he would bid me mark his fallen state,
And that it was unheeded. So he died
Without one struggle, and his brow in death
Wore its pale marble look of cold defiance.

L. E. L.

PARLIAMENTARY.

—567—

Imperial Parliament.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19, 1892.

CORN IMPORTATION BILL.

Mr. ROBINSON moved the third reading of the corn importation bill.

Mr. CURWEN said, that after the discussion which the subject to which the present bill referred had undergone, he did not feel himself justified in entering upon any further argument with respect to it. He should only re-state, that he in particular disapproved of that part of the bill, by which it was enacted, that the importing price of corn should be reduced to 70s. Such a change of regulation would affect all engagements and bargains that had been made for a long period of time, and, as he conceived, afford an example that must in a future session apply itself to other kinds of property. He for one never would agree to a direct invasion of the public creditor's interest, but he did think that, as regarded all burdens of a public nature, and he now alluded chiefly to the poor rates, they ought in common justice to be placed on the same ground of liability. Such burdens ought no longer to be allowed to press exclusively on the land. His only intention was to record his dissent on this occasion, and it was with no other view that he now proposed, as an amendment, that this bill be read a third time that day three months.

Mr. BRIGHT rose for the sole purpose of again expressing his conviction that the agricultural interest had taken a false view of the present question.

Mr. WESTERN observed, that he could not suffer this measure to be read a third time, without giving it his final malediction. It was upon the deepest reflection that he pronounced it calculated to increase every existing evil, and to add others to the miserable catalogue. The clause that went to reduce the importing price to 70s. was to him objectionable on every ground. He saw no justification for it in the state of our currency; and as it applied to Ireland, it seemed to him to reach the height of impolicy and imprudence. In the present condition of Ireland, such a provision was bad in every point of view. The bill in truth had a direct tendency to encourage foreign agriculture and foreign labour at the expense of our own, and especially to the neglect of the Irish. The grossness of such impolicy had not often been equalled. Ireland was a distinct part of the kingdom, and whilst it overflowed with milk and honey, was in the most wretched state, from the mere circumstance of there being no employment for a population looking out for labour. Yet, under these circumstances, his Majesty's Government had introduced a measure, which was to encourage foreign cultivators, and leave in their present state the miserable and starving people of that country. The question would not probably be carried to a division, but he should at least raise his voice in support of the amendment of his hon. friend.

Mr. D. BROWNE, after inquiring from the Chair what was the state of the question, declared himself in favour of the bill, and remarked that corn was never cheaper in Ireland than at this moment, and that great quantities were now exported from the counties of Galway and Sligo.

The bill was then read a third time and passed.

TITHES IN IRELAND.

Mr. DALY rose for the purpose of bringing forward the motion, of which he had given notice, on the object of Irish tithes.

Mr. PEEL said, it was with extreme reluctance that he should appear to cause any interruption to his honourable friend, but he would venture to submit, whether it was expedient at so advanced a period of the session to bring forward a question of this nature. His hon. friend would perhaps consider whether he was likely to lose any thing by proceeding in a different course, so as, for instance, to renew his notice now, and defer entering upon the subject itself till the ensuing session. (*hear, hear.*) As regarded a final decision on this most important question, he (Mr. Peel) had no doubt of the superior wisdom that would belong to the course he had suggested, unless his hon. friend contemplated something far more novel and extensive than he (Mr. Peel) was now apprised of, or unless it should be within the power of Government to introduce before the rising of Parliament some new proposition on the subject.

Mr. DALY professed himself willing to yield to any suggestion that should be likely to advance the cause he had taken up. He might have pledged himself to bring it forward, but it certainly was with the understanding that his proceeding would not be discountenanced by Government. (*Cries of "Go on, go on."*)

Sir E. O'BRIEN said, it was not to be expected that the noble marquis at the head of the Irish government could, in the midst of the

distractions which had prevailed, have framed a mature opinion on this question.

Mr. S. RICE expressed a hope that the hon. gent. (Mr. Daly) would not agree to the postponement which had been recommended to him. Such a compliance would produce the utmost disappointment and dissatisfaction among the people of Ireland.

Mr. D. BROWNE proceeded to remark, that a commutation of tithes was undoubtedly necessary in that country.

The SPEAKER then thought it his duty to observe, that there was at present no question before the house.

Sir J. NEWPORT wished to intimate, that if the hon. member should be prevailed on to withdraw his motion, he (Sir J. Newport) would bring it forward. (*hear, hear.*)

Mr. HUME desired to know, whether, in the event of the hon. gentleman's declining to persevere in his notice, he Mr. Hume could, in the present state of the house, claim a right of securing its attention.

The SPEAKER said the usual rule of priority was founded on the circumstance of catching the Speaker's eye, but the house itself might exercise a paramount authority. It must be left to the hon. member's own discretion, to judge of the fitness of bringing forward any question at a particular moment.

Mr. BROWNLOW added, whether, in case of delay, there was any chance of the subject being taken up by his Majesty's Government.

Mr. DALY assured the house of his willingness to yield to the recommendation of postponing his notice till the ensuing session, were he not fearful that he had committed himself so far, as not to be at liberty to withdraw it.

Mr. GOULBURN said he had already stated, that the subject of tithes was under the serious consideration of the Irish Government. If possible, he trusted that he should be prepared early in the next session, either to propose a new system of regulation, or to lay before the house satisfactory reasons for not doing so. Further than this assurance went he could not pledge himself.

Mr. V. FITZGERALD added his earnest solicitations to those of his right honourable friend, that his honourable friend (Mr. Daly) would not press forward a question that must be introduced under circumstances far more auspicious at a future period.

Mr. HUTCHINSON regarded the question as one that affected every Irish interest; and ought not, therefore, to be subjected to the least delay.

Sir H. PARNELL was also of opinion that by proceeding to discuss the honourable member's motion, they could not retard or injure the cause itself. The declaration of the right honourable gent. (Mr. Goulburn) might, indeed, be of some value after the late opinion expressed by the right honourable and learned gentleman the Attorney-General of Ireland. (*hear.*) But he still deemed it of essential importance that a clear prospect of relief should be held out before the end of the present session. (*hear.*)

Mr. CALCRAFT thought, that after the experience they had of the Irish Government, they were bound to proceed upon this subject, which was of the very first importance to the peace and happiness of the sister country.

Mr. DALY again adverted to the difficult situation in which he was placed, and referred to the opinion lately expressed by the Attorney-General of Ireland (Mr. Plunkett).

Mr. PLUNKETT declared, in explanation, that what he had before said amounted only to this—that he did not see his way beyond the specific measure which he understood was to be proposed. He did not say that a better plan might not be devised, but that he knew of none at that moment, which did not, under the name of commutation, infringe upon the sacred rights of property.

Mr. CREEVEY rose to order, as he apprehended the right hon. and learned gentleman was entering into the merits of the whole subject, while no question was formally before the house.

The SPEAKER said a few words in illustration of the usual course of proceeding.

Mr. PLUNKETT only wished to add, that he was perfectly sensible that the present system of collecting and recovering tithes might be greatly ameliorated, and he believed a measure would be brought forward next session, with reference to a permissive system of commuting land and tithe. The hon. member for Galwayshire (Mr. Daly) did him, however, too much honour in making his intentions depend upon his (Mr. Plunkett's) avowed disapprobation of any mode of adjustment that should involve a compulsory process. He was sure that the motion, if now brought forward, would cause great alarm in Ireland, and would lead to a suspension of all tithe payments.

Mr. DALY, after the fullest consideration, decided for the postponement of his motion till the ensuing session.

Mr. HUME immediately rose to avail himself of his privilege, and to carry into effect the notice he had some time since given of bringing under the consideration of the house the subject of tithes and of the church establishment in Ireland. So little commensurate, in his opinion, were the measures of government with the deplorable evils for which they were offered as remedies, that it was incumbent on the house, and every member of it connected with Ireland, to support and lose no time in the adoption of a different system. The state of iniquity and misery in which that country was plunged, led to the necessity of keeping up a military establishment that cost 2,000,000l. a year, instead of 500,000l., which was formerly the expence. With some of the opinions which had been recently expressed on the principal grievances of Ireland he agreed, but he could not admit, though he might be taunted as a person entertaining wild and visionary notions, that the property held in tithes was as sacred as any other kind of property. No man was more sensible than himself of the advantages derivable from a resident, respectable, and well-instructed clergy; and he felt anxious that they should always be enabled to appear in the rank and character of gentlemen. But he did not wish to see them possessed of disproportionate or unnecessary wealth. He thought it the duty of a legislature to steer between the two extremes, and that it was a mere pretence to represent tithes, over which parliament must always have a disposing power and authority, as property equally inviolable with the private estates of an individual. The church property was granted to support the religion of the state, and it was, therefore, at the disposal of the state to make any changes in it that might be proper, with a due regard however, at all times, to vested interests. He could assure the house that he did not wish to deprive any clergyman of any rent which he at present enjoyed, supposing that he had obtained it in the usual way; but he would provide for some better mode of managing it upon his decease. He could not allow it to be stated without contradiction, that any interference with church property was robbery. If the act of agistment passed by the Irish parliament, he believed, in 1736, and sanctioned at the time of the union by the British Parliament, was an act of robbery, why had not the right honourable gentleman opposite, or some of his colleagues, recovered the property of the church from those who had taken it; and why had they not restored it to the hands of the different clergymen from whom it had been wrested? He contended that the act of agistment clearly proved that in this country, at least, the church property was considered as property lying at the disposal of the state; and if it were necessary, he could show that in Denmark, in Russia, in Prussia, and in Italy, the same principle had always been acted on. To suppose that a church establishment was a part of the Christian religion, was a common error against which he for one begged leave to enter his protest. It was no part of Christianity: it was only a means for an end. This was the opinion of Dr. Paley, who maintained that a church establishment instead of being a part of Christianity, was only one of the means provided to inculcate it. That being the case, the next question to which he wished to draw the attention of the house was this—what was the purpose for which the establishment was intrusted with the property it possessed? Surely it was to support the religion of the country. Then came another question—were the means it enjoyed proportional to the end which was had in view? Now with regard to the church of Ireland, he must confess that he had come to this conclusion—that the state had granted it a great deal too much property. The church of Ireland had 24 bishops, 1,270 benefices, various degrees of value, and a revenue amounting to one million sterling. This sum he maintained to be too large, considering the small proportion of the inhabitants of Ireland who were of the established religion; and therefore he contended that it ought to be reduced within narrower limits. Was it not likely to be a considerable source of dissatisfaction to a population, suffering in the manner that the great bulk of the Irish population had long been suffering, to see such a portion of its wealth transferred to the ministers of a church, in which a small part of them believed, and of which the duties, he was sorry to say, were only performed in a very inefficient manner? The great disproportion between the number of bishops in Ireland, and the number in England, was a subject which appeared to him to be well deserving of the attention of the house, as did also their absence from their respective dioceses, which, as it authorized, also led to the absence of the different rectors and vicars from their livings, and the placing curates to superintend them at small salaries and wretched pittance. They had been told, and believed very truly, that a resident clergy was of great advantage to a country on many accounts. Of that advantage, Ireland knew little or nothing, since the money which the clergy derived from their livings was spent in Bath, or in Paris, or in any place whatsoever, save in the place from which it was derived. This non-residence of the clergy, joined to the non-residence of the gentry, was one of the evils which had most afflicted Ireland. There was another evil, however, which he could not in this stage of his argument consent to overlook—he meant the wretched state of the ecclesiastical courts in that unfortunate country. Indeed, that grievance was so intolerable, that he should have

thought any measure tending to redress it more worthy of the attention of the right honourable secretary opposite, than the measure which he had just introduced, to authorize the clergy to grant leases obligatory upon their successors. Another of the calamities under which the population of Ireland laboured was the manner in which its tithes were collected. Indeed, he knew no system that was so likely to drive those upon whom it was inflicted to deeds of desperation and violence. The hon. member then proceeded to state several instances of the mischief produced by the tithe system; and contended that they proved, that though the rents had decreased, the tithes had in general increased in Ireland; indeed, from one of the cases it appeared, that tithes which in 1781 amounted only to 140l. a year now amounted to 800l. He likewise read a letter which he had received from Lord Glengall, to whom he said he had not the honour to be personally known, stating that the Bishop of Waterford, who received 8,000l. a year from his see, had also a living in Tipperary, in which he had raised his tithes during the late distress, four pence an acre. He next proceeded to read an affidavit from James Conway—and he had no doubt that it was more deserving of credit than many of the affidavits on which the liberties of Ireland had been taken away—which that individual deposed, that the money demanded of him for tithe last year, amounted in value to one half of his whole produce, and that being unable to pay it, the clergyman had sued out process against him to recover it. He believed that most of the gentlemen whom he then had the honour of addressing, knew that in most cases the cost of such process far exceeded the value of the tithe which it was used to recover; and it was therefore unnecessary for him to say any thing upon the melancholy results of that part of the system. If any thing farther were necessary to elucidate the calamities to which it led in various parts of Ireland, it was to be found in the address sent by a parish in the county of Galway, last year, to the Grand Jury of the county. Here the hon. member read the document in question. Now, he would ask whether it was fitting that ministers should leave Ireland in the state in which these documents described it to be? Would they allow such grievances as were detailed in them to remain unredressed—grievances which it was proved, did not exist here and there in isolated cases, but which prevailed universally throughout the whole of Ireland? That man must have a heart of stone who could hear unmoved the forcible and eloquent statement of them made on a former night by the hon. member for Sligo; and, had he not known the constitution of the house, he should have expected that it would have called upon the minister with an indignant voice to say why he had allowed such evils to prevail so long without an attempt to remove them. He maintained that the cruelty of continuing this system of abuse in Ireland was only to be equalled by its unfairness towards the people of England. The latter were obliged to support an immense military establishment to keep down the wretched population of Ireland, whom this system of abuse, coercion, and oppression was perpetually driving into outrage and disturbance. (*hear, hear, from the Ministerial benches.*) He said “hear” too, and heartily wished the whole country could hear him whilst denouncing a system which had so long been the scourge and de-gradation of the sister island. It was a sad omen for England to see a minister, who had long allowed these grievances to continue in unimpaired activity in Ireland, preferred to a high situation in its internal government; but he trusted that some kind providence would avert the omen, and would inspire the administration with an earnest wish to put an end to the sufferings which from these causes had so long desolated Ireland. If the Government refused to provide a remedy for these grievances, it must not be surprised, if those to whom it would not grant protection endeavoured to extort it by that last resort of the enslaved and oppressed—force of arms. When grievances became intolerable resistance was a duty. (*hear, hear, from the Ministerial benches.*) Surely honourable gentlemen did not intend to deny that doctrine; if they did, he would tell them that resistance to oppression was the constitutional doctrine of these kingdoms, and what was more, the constant remedy to which the oppressed resorted. Year after year, disturbances had taken place in Ireland; and sure he was, that no man who had at all considered the subject, would deny that the tithe system was the principal cause of them. The hon. member then read an extract from an anonymous pamphlet in corroboration of his own opinion on this subject, and then proceeded to contend that nothing but a total and wilful disregard of the wants, feelings, and comforts of the people could have induced the Government not to notice the grievances to which they had been so long exposed. He likewise read another extract from the same pamphlet, to show that he (Mr. Hume) was not singular in the view which he had taken of the mischiefs occasioned to Ireland by the non-residence of its bishops and clergy. Whilst he was upon that point, he would take the opportunity of saying, that neither the bishops nor archbishops had done their duty towards Ireland. Many of them were non-resident themselves, and most, if not all of them, permitted of the non-residence of their clergy. To illustrate the mischief which was thus created, the hon. member read a correspondence between Lord Blaney, the parishioners of Castle Blaney, and the Bishop of Clogher, respecting the non-residence of the clergyman of the parish of Castle Blaney. From this correspondence it appeared, that complaints of

the incumbent's non-residence had been made, but made in vain, not only to the Bishop of Clogher, but to his primate (the archbishop of Armagh, we believe). The hon. member asserted that from Lord Blaney's letter it was quite evident that the evils to which he had called the attention of the Bishop of Clogher were very general; and if they were so, to what fatuity was it owing that the Government tolerated them? If the non-residence of the clergy and gentry were occasioned by the disturbances of the country, was it not the duty of the Government to put an end to that system which compelled them to expatriate themselves against their will, and contrary to their inclinations? It might be all very well for the Government to lament and to declare over the evils produced by the absenteeism of the clergy and gentry, but regret and lamentation was not all that was demanded of them—they were bound to probe the evil to its source, and to take away the causes which had originally led to it. It was sometimes asserted that the people of Ireland did not exhibit any desire for spiritual assistance. The letter of the parishioners of Castle Blaney to the Bishop of Clogher proved the reverse of that assertion, and showed that they were more eager to receive than their pastors were to grant them assistance. Indeed, if any other proof of that circumstance were wanted, it was to be found in a return which had been made to Parliament regarding the church establishment of Ireland. The hon. member here read the return, from which it appeared that out of 1,270 benefices in Ireland, 192 were without any churches; 717 had, and 529 had not, glebe lands; 763 had, and 507 had not, incumbent residences. Now, he would ask any man who talked about religion—and there were no men who canted more about it than his Majesty's ministers (*laughter*)—to consider, first, whether there could be so many non-residents without the consent of the bishops; and secondly, whether the bishops, by allowing this non-residence in such a multiplicity of instances, did or did not show an unbecoming disregard of their religious functions? With regard to the clergy who held these benefices, he had been told, that in many instances they were men of high family, placed in the church for the benefit of their private fortunes, and for the disgrace of the religion they professed. With regard to the bishops, he understood that one of them, and he did not see any reason why he should not mention his name—the late Bishop of Derry—had been 15 or 20 years in France with his family, and during the whole of that time had never once visited his see? Was that the way, he would ask, to promote religion? Or would it not be a better way to promote religion by taking all the church property again into their hands, and by turning it from its present to a more serviceable use? One of his reasons for proposing the inquiry which he had in view was to be found in a letter of the late Archbishop of Armagh to Earl Talbot, complaining that the state of the church in Ireland, though little understood, was often much misrepresented. The Government of Ireland in the year 1806, during the viceroyalty of the Duke of Bedford, directed several queries respecting church property to be transmitted to the different sees, for the purpose of obtaining the necessary information respecting their amount, &c. but the answers sent in return were very inadequate and imperfect, and rendered it necessary to call for further information, which had not yet been given in the manner in which it ought. The only perfect answer was sent by the Bishop of Elphin. Out of 1,270 districts, only 462 had sent answers, so that the Archbishop of Armagh had stated in his answer that certain arrangements were necessary to secure the attainment of the information which it was the object of the Government to acquire. Now, if the committee which he (Mr. Hume) meant to move for, were appointed, it would at least take the steps pointed out by the Archbishop of Armagh, and ultimately obtain that complete information which was essential for the adjustment of this question. The church property in Ireland consisted of two elevenths of the whole—he meant that to be taken as the relative amount of the property belonging to the bishops' sees, for the church had also the tithe of a large proportion of the land, the precise amount of which it was difficult to ascertain on account of the quantity tithe free in lay hands. How was that church property disposed of? The Archbishop of Armagh had, in money rents, out of his church property, about 14,000*l.* or 15,000*l.* a year, which, according to Mr. Wakefield's estimate, would, if let out in rack rents, like other land in Ireland, produce from 140,000*l.* to 150,000*l.* a year. This property was given out to the relatives and connexions of every bishop in succession, for their particular advantages (*cries of "hear" from the Treasury benches.*) He would repeat that such was the mode of its disposal, and he should prove the fact, if the house went into a committee. (*hear.*) The first object ought to be to ascertain the number of acres in each bishop's see, then what would be the value of those acres, properly and fairly let. It might be ascertained, after such a computation, how far the revenue of those bishops' sees would be enough, or more than enough, to pay the whole of the tithes chargeable on the country. (*hear, hear.*) He would repeat, to pay the whole expenses, and pay all handsomely, not only of the established church, but the Catholic clergy, and pastors of every other denomination, who might be paid by the state out of one common fund, as was now the case in some parts of the continent. England and Ireland were now the only countries in Europe in which tithes were collected in a pecu-

liarily oppressive manner, and one tenth of the land taken for the support of the clergy. And why was not this done here—was the country improving in religion under this system? Was the Christian religion better taught and its examples better enforced, by the clergy? He thought not, and was of opinion that this was the worst country in Europe in that respect. The clergy of Ireland were greatly overpaid, and for doing comparatively very little. The Government ought honestly to see to it in the hope of ameliorating the condition of the people, and not be intimidated by ecclesiastical interest. The Government that could not stand without a church establishment, ought not to stand at all [*cries of "hear" from the Treasury benches.*] He would not be deterred by those cheers from gentlemen opposite, and would repeat that the act of that government must be bad indeed which depended upon the support of the clergy for their maintenance. (*hear.*) He begged not to be set down as opposed to church establishment when he spoke of the abuses of one; what he insisted upon was this—that the Church of England did not require the property which it withheld from the people of Ireland, to support itself in all the proper dignity of its high station—ay, and in a much more sacred as well as useful condition for its own true interests, as well as those of the people intrusted to its charge. (*hear.*) No other country was so expensively burdened for its church. Beginning with Italy, which he selected as being the neighbourhood of the Pope, the people paid nothing like a tenth; in most places, except Naples, it was nearer to a 60th. In Piedmont, they paid a 20th, and in some places a 50th. In Sicily and Sardinia, perhaps, they paid nearly a 10th. In Tuscany, the Grand Duke Leopold set aside a revenue fund for the support of the church. The estates of the Jesuits were set apart to form this ecclesiastical fund, which was to abolish tithes and pay the church in their place. Leopold was proceeding with this great reform as fast as the present race of incumbents felt. They were left the enjoyment of tithes, but to their successors they were abolished, and they were paid out of the other fund. Why not act upon that example in Ireland? Why not form a fund there out of ecclesiastical property, and pay the clergy in the same manner? In France it was known that tithes were abolished and the clergy were paid with a fund of one million 2 or 300,000*l.* The archbishops were there paid not more than 500*l.* a year, and the bishops 600*l.* When he named these sums, he did not intend them as the estimates for this country. (*hear, hear.*) In Russia no tithes were levied; the state paid the whole of the clergy. In Denmark the clergy, by a curious arrangement, received a third part of their former tenth. In Sweden an archbishop had only 3 or 400*l.* a year. In the Netherlands the clergy were all paid by the government, without distinction of religions. The grant for 1820 for that service was 1,000,325 florins. In Holland in that year the total expenditure for religion was about 350,000*l.*, and it was honourable and remarkable that large sums were voted by the government in each district for the purposes of education. In the Duchy of Milan, no tithe of any kind, but the cures are supported by foundations. In the state of Venice, in the district of Verona, wheat 1-10th in some places, in others less; maize, &c. 1-15th. Ecclesiastical State, very small payments. Duchy of Modena, no tithe. Duchy of Parma, no real tithe, but small payments. In Germany, the clergy are really every where salaried. In the Prussian budget, 16th of June, 1821, the charge of the ecclesiastical affairs, and for education, was two millions of six dollars, or about 367,000*l.*; the clergy are all paid by the state. Grand Duchy of Baden, population in 1819, 1,019,785: Lutherans, Catholics, and Calvinists, all equal, rated 512,943 florins. (*hear.*) If the Irish Church income were, as he believed it would be found, adequate to all ecclesiastical purpose without oppressing the people, why not try and afford the necessary relief without pressing the people to ruin? In Wurtemberg all clergymen were paid by the state; there were no tithes, 87,000*l.* was sufficient for ecclesiastical purposes. One great grievance was in the mode of uniting parishes and translating livings in Ireland. The bishops had the power of giving to one individual two, three, or four livings in different directions, and all of them of great extent. This individual without living on the spot drew this great property away, leaving only 70*l.* or some paltry and inadequate stipend for the poor curate who officiated. And yet, what was remarkable was this—that when a more just remuneration was required for these curates, and when the glebe houses were to be put in repair instead of the curates' salary being improved, and the house refitted out of the church property on the spot, parliament was called upon, and in that way, within six or seven years, 600,000*l.* or 700,000*l.* had been voted out of the pockets of the people. (*hear.*) It was likewise curious to observe that a great part of this money had been voted, not to parishes which had no funds, but to those whose incomes were really large, and went altogether into the funds of the bishop (*hear.*) who ought, instead of parliament, to have supplied the curate and glebe deficiency. Thus were the people of England called upon to pay what the bishop ought to have paid out of his already extravagant and profuse allowances. In this very district of Armagh the abuses in the disposition of church property were observable. He saw in the list of curates about 78 who were absent from the spot. Among the names he found Sir T. Foster, who had besides livings in Armagh, 3 in Dublin, and the same name was that

of the master of Carysford school. Sir C. Beresford had also in Armagh 4,000 acres of glebe land in his living; he had an entire rectory at Kilmore of 1,300 acres of glebe more. In England it was quite impossible to calculate the manner in which these Irish livings were distributed far and near to favoured individuals. The Knox's appeared to be a very favoured family in the line of the church. The hon. C. Knox had two livings in one place, and four parishes in Dublin. The Rev W. Knox had two rectories in Derry, and the Hon. Spencer Knox had three other rectories. These gentlemen were, he understood, on the continent with their families. He begged pardon for this long intrusion upon the attention of the house; but he had waited to see what plan the Secretary for Ireland contemplated, and was that plan, he would ask, commensurate with the redress of the evils which were on all sides admitted to have existence? Would Ireland be satisfied with it? If not, then was it not necessary that something should be done; and if parliament, by sitting a little longer, could inquire better into the condition of Ireland, and adopt any arrangement calculated to pacify that country, were they not bound to take that course? It would be in vain to expect peace in that unhappy country, so long as this question of tithes remained unsettled (*hear*); and it would be idle to embark in the inquiry, without first taking immediate steps to ascertain the whole revenue of the church establishment in Ireland, the particular value and state of the ecclesiastical sees, the manner in which dignitaries of the church have extracted sums of money for ecclesiastical purposes, and left the poor curates to be provided for out of the public purse. Unless they embarked in this comprehensive inquiry, it would be in vain to hope for any redress of an evil which had been centuries in maturing its oppression. He begged, in any inquiry which he contemplated, to guard himself against any meddling with any man's living or see; he proposed to leave them as they now stood for the present incumbents, and it was only upon their death that he proposed the alteration in the existing system. (*hear, hear*). He did not mean to touch the existing arrangements of any bishop or curate—let them remain as interests concerned, fairly and entirely vested in the parties. He then concluded by moving for a committee, which he said might call for documents now, to render the subject early next session more intelligible than it could otherwise be made, if they were to postpone commencing the investigation until that period. But the honourable member, after consulting with some honourable members near him, moved "that this house do early in the next session of Parliament pledge itself to take into consideration the state of the established church of Ireland, and the manner in which tithes are there collected, with a view to make such alteration and improvement as should seem necessary in its disposition and administration." (*hear*.)

Mr. ELLICE, in rising to second the motion of his honourable friend, could not refrain from the expression of his gratitude to him for having taken up so important a subject. He came into the house prepared to support the motion of his hon. friend opposite (Mr. Daly), and he regretted that that motion had been abandoned. He knew, indeed, the warm and deep interest which his honourable friend always took in the affairs of his country, and the integrity of his views; but he lamented that a question so deeply involving the interests of Ireland should be postponed by the gentlemen who were so nearly interested in the condition of their own people. He repeated the gratification he felt at finding his hon. friend (Mr. Hume) take up a motion which was dropped for the present by the gentlemen opposite. He was the more strongly impressed with the necessity of adopting some conciliatory and efficient measures for Ireland, when he found they were called upon to renege the frightful and obvious Insurrection bill, for still coercing that unfortunate country. (*hear*). When he saw such a state of things, it struck him, as an Englishman, that if any of his constituents were suffering all the horrors of famine, oppression, and misery, in every shape, it would become his imperative and uncompromising duty to force upon the Government, even though it were a Government he confided in, the immediate necessity of doing something to inquire into the grievances of people so placed, of ascertaining the depths of their misery, while they were arming the law against their outrages. (*hear, hear*). If, as an Englishman, such should be his feelings for his own constituents, he at least ought not to withhold his sympathy from his Irish fellow-subjects. (*hear*). He confessed he should rather have voted for a more limited motion than the present, believing the more cautious way in which they approached so momentous and delicate a subject, to be most likely to lead to good practical results. (*hear, hear*); but he was still prepared to go the length of his hon. friend's motion, rather than suffer the session to pass away without some formal step being taken in the business. It was full time that the state of tithes in Ireland should be made the subject of inquiry in Parliament; it might also become necessary to look at the enormous church estates of Ireland and their application, considering the state of the people who suffered from the mode of their collection. In thus stating his assent to the principle of his honourable friend's motion, he begged to be understood as neither agreeing nor disagreeing in the statements made by his honourable friend: the grievances were so deep and manifold, that exaggerations from the sufferer were to be ex-

pected; but this did not render inquiry the less necessary. There was no new principle involved in the mode of remedying this evil: other grievances, though certainly of easier remedy, had been inquired into and redressed by the right honourable gentleman opposite (Mr. Peel.) But his chief complaint against the Government of Ireland was this—why were they not prepared with some matured plan upon this subject? Years had elapsed since the evil was felt—they must have known that to Parliament the matter would come at last, and yet now they were told by the right honourable gentleman opposite (Mr. Plunkett,) that he could not see his way through the question. Here were two acts of coercion passed against Ireland, and an inquiry into the grievances of the people overlooked at such a moment. He was glad that his honourable friend had not touched existing interests. The right hon. gent. opposite (Mr. Plunkett) had said that he could see no arrangement respecting the property of the church, the principle of which did not affect every other species of property. Now, it was true that what was strictly the property of lay impropriators, might be considered as a personal vested right; but the church property of Ireland, as attached to the ecclesiastical sees, he considered as national, and intended for the church establishment of Ireland. Although he was very disinclined to interfere with this species of property, yet when its management had become the source of endless litigation, oppression, and wide-spreading demoralization, they had no alternative but to interfere, or prevent the terrible consequences of insurrection. (*hear*). The litigation about tithes was unexampled: in Galway alone, within a few years there had been 45 or 47,000 tithe causes litigated. If even 8,000 such causes had occurred in Kent or Surrey, would the legislature not have endeavoured to put a stop to such a mass of disputation and wrong? (*hear*). The people of England, he thanked God, would not endure such a state of oppression; and ought they to tolerate its infliction upon the wretched population of Ireland? (*hear*). This was the only country in Europe in which the tithe system was capable of inflicting such a mass of miseries. Other countries had got rid of its operation by revolutions (God forbid that such were the only chance of relief here); and the baneful effect of the oppression was, that it was calculated to drive the sufferers to the commission of open violence, if redress were long withheld from them. He had chiefly risen as an English member to show the people of Ireland that there were members in that house, though not of their country, who were ready to advocate their cause, and who took a deep interest in their sufferings. (*hear*). He looked upon tithes as being national property; and when he saw the arrangement which had been made in Scotland, he could not help thinking that a commutation of tithes might be effected with general advantage to the church and the country, and with dissatisfaction to few. (*hear*). It was therefore that he was ready to second this motion. (*hear*.)

Mr. DENNIS BROWNE declared himself to be a warm friend to the principle of a commutation of tithes, although he never heard a speech so well calculated as that of the honourable member opposite (Mr. Hume) to destroy those combined feelings which happily prevailed among so many members of that house for the purpose of promoting so desirable an alteration in the tithe system. (*hear*). He therefore cautioned those who were ready to co-operate with him in seeking a commutation of tithes, and who were determined to press that consideration upon Parliament early in the ensuing session, how they listened to the speech of the hon. member opposite (Mr. Hume), or associated themselves with the revolutionary sentiments or objects which he had just avowed in his speech (*cries of "hear" from the Treasury benches*). That hon. member had disclaimed the principle of commutation, as not being enough for his purpose; but nobody besides himself had ever dreamt of shaking to its foundation the whole tenure of the church property of Ireland—a project so monstrous never entered into the heads of gentlemen who had considered this subject with a view to the administration of practical relief. He (Mr. Browne) respected the church establishment of Scotland, and appreciated the excellent moral effects it had produced; but he never heard any declaration that it would be practicable to assimilate the church of Ireland affairs to those of Scotland. He earnestly implored his countrymen who thought and acted with him, to vote against the honourable gentleman's motion, which was calculated so completely to mar their own work, and utterly to disconnect themselves from any liability of being deemed participators in those revolutionary and monstrous measures which the honourable member had propounded. The question was now—should the whole system of the church of Ireland, as established, be exposed to a total change? His answer was, no; and therefore he would oppose such a motion as this. (*hear, hear*.)

Sir JOHN NEWPORT premised, that in all which he might have to say on the subject before the house, he must beg his right honourable friend (Mr. Browne, we imagine) to believe that he (Sir J. Newport) sincerely considered him to be actuated by a desire to tranquilize Ireland, not only in respect of the collection of tithes, but with regard to all other subjects of discontent in that country. In the exercise of his

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(Sir J. Newport's) duty, he had more than once had to stand up in that house, and to record his dissent from the proceedings of successive Governments of Ireland, in consequence of their leaving unsettled and unremedied many of the evils which were most likely to agitate the public mind, so long as they continued to exist. He was the more induced to make this remark, because he had heard that evening some honourable gentlemen, who had before expressed an intention of addressing the house upon the question now before it, declare their readiness to leave the matter for the present undiscussed, on the sort of promise which had been given on the part of his Majesty's Government, to come forward in the commencement of next session, either with a statement of the measures which they might in the mean time have adopted, relative to a change in the system of tithes; or with a fair and candid acknowledgment that none such had been determined upon; in which latter case, it would be open to some other person to bring the question under the house's consideration. His (Sir J. Newport's) objection to all this was, that upwards of 5 years ago, the noble lord at the head of his Majesty's Government declared in that house (and it might be now alluded to here, having become, as it were, matter of history), that Government had then for some time had the same subject under their consideration; and that although the principle of commutation might not be applicable to the existing state of things in England, it might be applied to Ireland. (*hear, hear.*) Now, with such an unfulfilled engagement as this before their eyes, was it reasonable for hon. gentlemen to confide in this promise of the Government that it would come forward in the beginning of next session? He was most ready to give the hon. member for Galwayshire (Mr. Daly) full credit for the best intentions in calling the attention of parliament to his motion; but he thought that the gentleman had shown rather too much facility in allowing himself to be over-persuaded, by such a promise, to abandon his original intention. With respect to the question now before the house, he (Sir J. Newport) should not on the present occasion attempt to mix up with it any extraneous circumstances; but he should confine himself to state the principles upon which he should offer another proposition for the approbation of the house. Among the many grievances which had been properly pointed out to the house, the union of parishes had not, perhaps, been sufficiently urged. On the 31st May he (Sir J. Newport) presented a petition from the Protestant inhabitants of two parishes in the county of Mayo, setting forth that the union of those two parishes, which had been made under Episcopal authority, had completely shut out the great majority of the parishioners from all access to any place of public worship according to the rites of the established church. Now in regard to this parish, two returns had been made to Parliament; and if both of them were correct, very extraordinary accidents, indeed, must have befallen the parish in question. The house would allow him to show what were the discrepancies between the two statements. In 1806 the bishop of the diocese stated in his return the fact of the union of the two parishes. By the same return it appeared that the then incumbent was no relation to the bishop; that the dimensions of the parish, as united, were 10 miles in length, and 8 in breadth; and that there were or should be, two churches in the union, one of which was at the time only half built, but had been begun in consequence of a donation of 500*l.* granted by the First Fruits' Fund. Now, this return contained no statements either of the completion of such church, or of what had become of the money. The next return made by the successor of this bishop was dated in 1819, and after stating that there was one church described the parish as being diminished both in length and breadth since the time of his predecessor. (*a laugh.*) It was alleged to be diminished, two miles in one way, and one in the other being described as eight miles long by six broad. (*a laugh.*) The new bishop had continued the incumbency in favour of his son, but this return also failed to take any notice either of the new church or of the 500*l.* which had been given towards its erection. (*hear, hear.*) These facts might show the house how cautious it should be in giving implicit credence to returns of this nature. Though those returns might not mean to state things falsely, they frequently were so framed as to suppress a part of the truth. No one could deny that it was the duty of the Board of First Fruits to have examined what was done with this sum of 500*l.*; and of the bishop who filled the diocese in 1819, to have consulted the report of his predecessor in 1806. The unions in Ireland, these unions of parishes were of enormous extent. There were several glebes of from 1,600 to 2,000 acres in extent, without any glebe-house or church upon them. The act passed in the reign of Geo. II. however, expressly declares that where the benefice was worth 100*l.* as to glebe, there a glebe house should be built. The house ought not to allow these infringements of the statute, by incumbents who, in some cases had 1,600 acres of glebe, on which no glebe-house was erected—who were pluralists—who lived in another diocese—who perhaps held another glebe of 400 acres of more profitable land than the glebe of large extent. Would the house allow this? (*hear.*) Was it for a moment to be tolerated? (*hear.*) In 1806, as the organ of the Irish Government, he attempted to move that house to institute an inquiry into the state of the church and of church lands. In 1807 he brought forward the same subject; but the previous question—that ready mode of at once getting rid of all questions that happened to be disagreeable

to Ministers—was moved upon it. So lately as the year 1817, as the Irish orders in council would show, the power of the Lord-Lieutenant was exercised with respect to the union of parishes. At the early part of last century, when the greater part of Ireland was under pasturage, the number of parishes united, as compared with the number of those which had been disunited, was pretty nearly equal. There was 37, or thereabouts, in each class; but now it appeared that in proportion as the country had increased in tillage, the number of these unions had increased, while the disunions had much diminished. It would be seen by inspecting the returns upon the table, that in one case five vicarages in the diocese of Killaloe was united with five rectories; and this union, comprising a district measuring twenty miles from north to south, and ten miles from west to east, was made in 1818. How was it possible that the established religion could be properly taught or upheld in parishes of this description? In the preamble to the act of the second of George the First it was stated, that in some instances these parishes were so vast in their extent and length, that it was difficult for the parishioners to repair to their parish churches, and return home in the same day. Was it to be supposed that any establishment could be carried on in this manner, or be sustained in a manner beneficial to the country? If parliament did not look to subjects of such just complaint as those which had now been brought under its notice, could any effectual remedy be hoped for? Could it be expected that the Protestant worship should not sensibly decline and diminish? Bishop Pococke, as it was well known, when he had the diocese of Ossery, took great pains to ascertain its population. In that diocese the Protestant population had diminished in the proportion of two fifteenths, while its general population had more than doubled. The same effects would be found to exist at this day, but more extensively. He (Sir J. Newport) meant to move an amendment to the motion of his hon. friend, because he thought it was of the greatest importance to direct the attention of Parliament to those objects which obviously admitted of amelioration, instead of taking too wide a range in the outset. That amendment would be in these words:—"That with a view to the tranquillity and happiness of Ireland, this house will, in the early part of next session, take the subject of tithes, as affecting that part of the United Kingdom, into its most serious consideration, with the view of substituting for the present vexatious and precarious mode of supporting the established church a full and liberal compensation, to be fairly assessed and levied." (*hear.*) In moving this amendment, let him not be accused of favouring spoliation. Spoliation he left to the members of the Union Parliament. (*cheers.*) By the journals of that Parliament it appeared that a bill was brought in there on one occasion, "to quiet and bar all claims for unpaid tithes, &c." That bill was brought into the Irish house by Lord Viscount Castlereagh on the 26th of March (*hear.*), supported by the Attorney-General, the Solicitor-General, and Mr. Prime Sergeant of that day. It was read a second time on the 28th of March; on the 31st of March it was read a third time and passed; and Lord Viscount Castlereagh was directed to carry the bill up to the Lords, and desire their concurrence thereto. (*hear.*) Yet it was from this very quarter that he (Sir J. Newport) only the other night had been taunted. That noble lord was pleased to say, he hoped that he (Sir J. Newport) did not intend to trench at all on Church property. Did this taunt come with any good grace from the man who had trenched, in other times, so largely upon it? He (Sir John Newport) did not intend, by the effect of his amendment, to give compensation to the clergy for dormant claims. At the same time, he never would be the advocate of spoliation. He did think it essential, not only to the prosperity, but to the safety of the established church, as a church, to give a commutation to its clergy for every thing in the shape of tithes which, they had customarily received; and that was to be taken in such a way as might quiet the disturbance which the present system had long excited in the country. So long ago as 1731, Mr. Dobbs, in his memorial to the Duke of Dorset, then Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, complained that the collection of tithes was a permanent obstacle to the peace of the country. At the period of the union, Mr. Pitt, among other things, promised that tithes should be abolished. The expectations of those who had been members of the Irish parliament, however, had been completely frustrated, and every thing of all those promises had been forgotten, except the private bargains of those who could descend to make them. The right hon. baronet, after alluding to the danger resulting from the constant agitation in which for so long a period the minds of 7,000,000 of people had been kept by reason of the existing system, insisted on the necessity of an immediate alteration, and on the inevitable and only alternative which must follow if it were much longer delayed.

Mr. GOULBURN observed, that the discussion of the original question had diverged into a discussion of a great variety of other topics. The principle of commutation, he (Mr. Goulburn) would not be indisposed to accede to, if it were accompanied with no violation of existing rights. Now, he apprehended that in this case, such a violation would be almost the necessary concomitant of the right honourable baronet's views, if carried into effect. The little experience which he (Mr. Goulburn) had had

in Parliament, sufficed to shew him how inconvenient it was for the house to give those pledges as to its future conduct, which the right hon. bart. now called upon them to do. He trusted the house would not accede to the amendment, but exercise due caution on the occasion, more particularly as precisely this kind of pledge it was almost at all times inexpedient to give. As to the residence of the clergy, he felt as strongly as any honourable gentleman the advantages that must result from it; and his own exertions should contribute as much as possible to secure it. On this point some injustice had been done to the members of the establishment. He admitted that there were 1,270 benefices in Ireland, and only 763 incumbents; but 47 clergymen, it appeared on the best authority, lived only in adjoining parishes; others were non-resident from age or infirmity, and more from a variety of causes more or less venial; some deserving censure, but many calling for indulgence. Non-residence was undoubtedly an evil, but the absence of the beneficed clergyman was often adequately supplied by his curate. With regard to the speech of the honourable member for Aberdeen (Mr. Hume), he would not follow it through its details: the task of developing its numerous errors would neither be pleasant nor useful. It was full of gross miscalculations, and many of his statements were directly at variance with admitted facts. He had called the attention of the house to the great exactions of the church in Ireland, when it was known that the clergy received much less than their dues, the only valid objection being against the mode of collection. The hon. gent. had ransacked all authorities, and had gone through all clauses, from the earl to the cottager. The case of the Bishop of Waterford he had altogether mis-stated; whether the tithes had been raised or not, he (Mr. Goulburn) did not enquire; but the fact was, that the bishop was sole trustee of a charity, to the funds of which the tithes of the parish referred to belonged. Generally speaking, the late reductions in tithes had been in proportion to the reductions in rent. He objected, most strongly to the line of argument pursued, by the hon. member for Aberdeen—a line which he had been the first in this house to adopt. He denied the right of the clergy to the tithes, while he (Mr. Goulburn), on authority quite as high as that of the hon. gent., maintained that their right to tithes was equal to the right of the owner of the soil. The first lawyers of the age had stated this as their deliberate opinion. If this principle of spoliation were adopted, it would affect the whole property of the church throughout the empire. The hon. gentleman, was indeed, a moderate reformer—he wished the income of an archbishop to be 800l. a year, (Mr. Hume said, across the house, “5,000l. a year.”) Be it so; but who should say, when the race of spoliation was begun, where it would end, and especially when members were to derive popularity from stripping the church of its undeniable rights? Who should say that some future member for Aberdeen might not be found to complete the course the present member for Aberdeen had begun? (hear.) If the possessions of the church were to be attacked because, they were large, the possessions of great landed proprietors might be attacked on the same ground—the revenue of an earl or a duke were as fit objects, of rapacity as the revenues of a bishop or an archbishop. (hear.) Upon the whole, he felt it his duty to resist both the motion and the amendment.

Sir J. NEWPORT explained.

Mr. DALY mentioned the circumstances under which he had withdrawn the motion of which he had given notice, and supported the amendment because he preferred a pledge from Parliament to the partial and, in his view, injurious measure brought forward on a former night by the Secretary for Ireland.

Mr. S. RICE referred the house to the distinct pledge given by Mr. Perceval in 1803 on this subject, as well as to a similar admission of the necessity of effectual relief made by the present Lord Maryborough some years since, on a question from the hon. member for Queen's County (Sir H. Parnell.) He then proceeded to contend that the tranquillity of Ireland was only to be secured by a full and fair consideration of the question of tithes with a view to reform the whole system. If there were any thing that would allay irritation, and reconcile the people even to existing abuses in other respects, it would be a distinct pledge on the part of Parliament, that redress should be afforded, to the sufferers. After admitting the right of the church to tithe, the hon. gent. addressed himself to the English members in the house, in order to induce them to support the amendment; he relied upon their justice and generosity, not to negative a proposition which would be supported by the great majority of the representatives of Ireland. It would not be his fault if the house should not have prayers from every parish village, and hamlet addressed to their justice and generosity, for redress of this grievance. (hear, hear) The evils of this subject could only be corrected by commutation. The measure of the right hon. gent. was but delusion. He would rather claim a pledge from the gentlemen of England than from any administration. If this claim were granted, there would be an end of the measures of coercion, which were found to be unavailing.

Mr. PEEL denied that there had been any collusive argument. He had merely said to his hon. friend that he would ask him to postpone his motion. He had not conversed with him for 10 minutes on the subject. He did not suppose that the carrying of this motion would pro-

mote the tranquillity of Ireland. If the people should not afterwards be satisfied with the result of the inquiry, the disappointment of their hopes would be most prejudicial. In the first place, he thought all pledges inconvenient for taking a subject into consideration in a future session. On the subjects of Catholic emancipation and criminal laws, such pledges had been given by the house, but the measures proposed were definite. He had attended to this subject, and was bound to say, for fear of misconception, that he had discovered the question to be, he would not say insuperable, but one of very great difficulty; but no previous difficulty would prevent him from giving the subject the fullest consideration. He utterly protested, however, against the principles of the honourable member who had brought forward the motion. Scraps of newspapers, two years old, cases in courts of law, and petitions presented to that house, were not authority to which he was disposed to pay much respect. In cases in which the tithes had been increased, had been for the benefit of a public charity to which the clergyman was in duty obliged to attend. The honourable member would also reduce the number of bishops. Instead of entering into discussion, he entirely protested against the principles of the honourable member.

Mr. BROUGHAM said, if he wanted grounds for supporting the motion, those on which the last honourable member had resisted it would be amply sufficient. What was it which the right honourable gentleman alleged? Not that a pledge was given by ministers. They gave no pledge; but they would consider the subject, and next session they would tell whether any thing could be done. There was not a bill brought forward to remedy the evil. The bill of the right hon. gent. was opposed by all: it was nothing at all calculated to remove the present difficulties; it was not satisfactory to the country, or to its representatives; the stamp of disapprobation was deeply impressed upon it already; it was not calculated to meet the evil either in degree or kind. Ministers would have the next 6 months, in addition to those 30 years (a laugh), to consider the subject, and in the fulness of time, at the end of 30 years and a half, they would open the session by telling whether any thing could be done. (hear, hear.) The whole tone of the right honourable gentleman who spoke last led him to think it more probable that the answer would be—“We are going to do nothing; the difficulties are so many and so insuperable, that we can apply no remedy.” The length of time which had elapsed was a reason. If the subject had been brought forward in 1786, that was a reason why blind pledges should not be satisfactory. If the House of Commons did not embark in the pledge, and in a pledge more definite than any hitherto given, 39 years more would be passed without effecting any relief. (cheers.) But in the present state of Ireland they could not afford 30 months. (hear, hear.) The right hon. gent. thought a pledge inconvenient because no specific measure was proposed; but the Catholic question was in that respect perfectly similar; so had the slave trade been in 1806 and 1810. In 1806 compensation was a material subject of discussion, and yet a pledge had been given. This he mentioned as a good omen, because the house set themselves to redeem the pledge. The criminal laws came within the same rule. But his answer on all grounds was, that he had no choice. Something must be done. That was as clear as noon-day. That we could not afford longer delay was admitted by those who knew best the state of Ireland. If the only danger was that they should not redeem their pledge, that vanished at once when they considered how and what they were to do. Some change, and not inconsiderable in the measure, and still more in the manner, was unavoidable. They must do something, be it effectual or not. To pledge themselves, therefore, was necessary for the satisfaction of the people, for the existence of the Government, and, more than for the peace of the people or the security of the Government, it was necessary for the establishment of the church. (cheers.)

Mr. C. HUTCHINSON said, if his hon. friend the member for Galwayshire had brought forward his motion, and the house had divided without discussion, of 40 Irish members, not 6 would have opposed it. So convinced had ministers been of this fact, that while they believed the question would be brought forward they had sent orders from the Treasury to oppose it. He defied hon. gent. opposite to deny the main points of the powerful statement of the member for Montrose. It had been argued, that the disappointment of the hopes excited by a pledge would be dangerous; but he put it, whether the danger was not much greater of holding out to the distracted people of Ireland that the House of Commons would give no pledge. If there was one thing in the Irish character more distinguished than another, it was their disposition to forgive, and receive with joy and confidence the olive branch of conciliation.

Mr. PLUNKETT would only give his reasons for the vote he should give. The amendment of his right hon. friend he thought premature, dangerous, and not likely to have any good effect. No measure proposed by ministers could be beneficial it was said. Was it fair to say so before the bill, of his right hon. friend was read a second time or its details known? It was not fact that the stamp of disapprobation was impressed upon it. If it should not be unfairly met, if it got fair play,

it would be attended with the most beneficial effects. The charge of indefiniteness belonged rather to the other side. Ministers had brought forward a bill. What had they done on the other side? Not a word had been said of the nature of the measure which they proposed to adopt. There could be no agreement, not even among three of the array which was formed in support of a general proposition. His right honourable friend and the honourable member for Montrose would not agree respecting the mode of applying a remedy, the former not wishing for a reduction of the amount, and the latter requiring a reduction of the tithes. The principles of the honourable member for Montrose went to establish a direct principle of spoliation and robbery. (*loud cheers.*) It was not merely the clergy who would be affected, but all property would be in danger. (*cheers.*) What! was the property of the clergy resumable at the pleasure of the State? (*loud cheers.*) He was glad to hear those cheers from the opposite side, for he wished that all who entertained such dangerous and alarming principles would avow them. The same doctrine which was applied to tithes was equally applicable to rents. (*Repeated cheers.*) Would the hon. member for Montrose, in the range of his discretion in modelling the State, touch the lay proprietor? If not, why should the church be plundered and not the lay proprietor? But he knew well that his right honourable friend (Sir John Newport) was not on the level of vulgar arithmetic of the honourable gentleman who had opened the debate (Mr. Hume.) He (Sir John Newport) was incapable of entertaining his views. But in the present times and circumstances his right honourable friend ought to have felt it incumbent to state his disavowal of them. (*cheers*) If the doctrine was true as to the church, it was true of the landlord, the fundholder, and every corporation in the country. Spoliation and robbery, too, were to be enforced by the rebellion and resistance. The honourable member said, (he had taken down his words,) that if the commands of the people should not be complied with, it not only would be the consequence, but it would be the duty of the people to resist. The motion was calculated to give deep alarm to the clergy, and to excite great and unfounded hopes among the people. When the sad reality should be known, there would be nothing but disappointment and outrage. At present he did not see his way on the subject of tithes. The entire removal of them would be but a removal of one of many charges. Rent and taxes would not press the less if tithes were entirely abolished. The honourable and learned gentleman concluded by moving the previous question.

Mr. D. BROWNE said he would vote for the amendment of Sir J. Newport.

Sir N. COLTHURST also said he would adopt a similar course, without, however, participating in the views of the hon. member for Montrose.

Colonel TRENCH expressed his sorrow that his hon. friend (Mr. Daly) had abandoned his motion, which had been grasped at by the honourable member for Montrose, whose views and intentions appeared to be revolutionary.

Sir E. O'BRIEN said he would vote for the amendment.

Mr. R. MARTIN would vote for the previous question.

Mr. HUME arose amidst cries of "Question." He said that in the absence of arguments, honourable gentlemen opposite had had recourse to hard words. But he would remind hon. gentlemen, that a man could see a mote in his brother's eye which he could not perceive in his own. He would remind the hon. and learned gentleman (Mr. Plunkett), who accused him of spoliation and robbery, that he himself had on a former occasion concurred in the robbery of the church. (*hear, hear.*) He (Mr. Hume) had distinctly stated that he did not propose to destroy existing rights. It was monstrous to him how facts had been perverted, in order to raise an outcry against him. He threw back the expression of "vulgar arithmetic" to the hon. and learned gentleman from whom it proceeded. He had done with the honourable and learned gentleman (*a laugh*); and now for the secretary of state. (*a laugh.*) The right honourable secretary also talked of spoliation and robbery: but he had not been concerned in the robbery of the church, like his honourable and learned friend. He believed, that if the matter came to be fairly examined, the only difference between him and the honourable gentlemen opposite would be found to be this—that they had recourse to hard words, whilst he used arguments—this appeared to be the real balance of the account. The honourable gentleman concluded by stating, that he would not take the sense of the house upon his motion, as it appeared that the Irish members, whose wishes he desired to consult, approved rather of the amendment of the right hon. bart.

The original motion was then negatived without a division.

The house divided upon the amendment of Sir J. Newport.

The numbers appeared,—for amendment, 65—against it, 72—majority, 7.

The other orders of the day were disposed of, the house adjourned at a few minutes before THREE O'CLOCK.

Henry Kirke White.

The Remains of Henry Kirke White, with an Account of his Life. By Robert Southey. Vol. III. 8vo. pp. 185. London, 1822. Longman and Co.

THOUGH something in the way of More last Words of Richard Baxter, we doubt not but that this small volume will partake of the popularity of its precursors, and be widely read by the evangelical classes, to whose appetite it is addressed. Nor has the sympathy which hung like a dim halo round the dying head of this amiable youth, yet lost so much of its interest as to admit of aught of his being issued from the press without exciting a feeling more general in its behalf. The well written preface to the present publication will augment that feeling, and help these relics forward in the public estimation. In our own opinion the contents are hardly of sufficient weight for a separate volume; but we willingly in such a case surrender our critical judgment to the tastes of a multitude of readers with whom the productions of Kirke White are held in reverence, not merely as effusions of genius, but as emanations of an apostolic spirit, sublimed from earth to Heaven with a martyr's glory. The first third of the volume before us consists of letters, which display the writer in the light of a very virtuous young man; but they are too immature to require comment as literary performances. The next division is of early poems, and in some of these the amatory and warm occupy the places afterwards held by the religious and enthusiastic. We cite two as examples:

SONGS.

Sweet Jessy! I would fain caress
That lovely cheek divine;
Sweet Jessy, I'd give worlds to press
That rising breast to mine.
Sweet Jessy, I with passion burn
Thy soft blue eyes to see;
Sweet Jessy, I would die to turn
Those melting eyes on me!
Yet Jessy, lovely as * * *
Thy form and face appear,
I'd perish ere I would consent
To buy them with a tear.

Oh, that I were the fragrant flower that kisses
My Arabella's breast that heaves on high;
Pleased should I be to taste the transient blisses,
And on the melting throne to faint, and die.

Oh, that I were the robe that loosely covers
Her taper limbs, and Grecian form divine;
Or the entwisted zones, like meeting lovers,
That clasp her waist in many an airy twine.

Oh, that my soul might take its lasting station
In her waved hair, her perfumed breath to sip;
Or catch, by chance, her blue eyes' fascination!
Or meet, by stealth, her soft vermilion lip.

But chain'd to this dull being, I must ever
Lament the doom by which I'm hither placed;
Must pant for moments I must meet with never,
And dream of beauties I must never taste.

The poems of a later date, which fill the next class, are entirely contrasted with these in matter; though it would not perhaps be difficult to trace a very intimate relationship between the glow of earthly loves and the fervour of divine hymns, which may be but different modifications of the same spirit. Be this as it may, we shall enable our readers, by a quotation or two, to compare or contrast the theme for themselves:

In every clime, from Lapland to Japan,
This truth's confest,—That man's worst foe is man.
The rav'ning tribes, that crowd the sultry zone,
Prey on all kinds and colours, but their own.
Lion with lion herds, and pard with pard,
Instinct's first law, their covenant and guard.
But man alone, the lord of ev'ry clime,
Whose post is godlike, and whose pow'rs sublime,
Man, at whose birth the Almighty hand stood still,
Pleas'd with the last great effort of his will;
Man, man alone, no tenant of the wood,
Preys on his kind, and laps his brother's blood;
His fellow leads, where hidden pit-falls lie,
And drinks with ecstasy his dying sigh.

SONNETS.

Poor little one! most bitterly did pain,
And life's worst ills, assail thine early age;
And, quickly tir'd with this rough pilgrimage,
Thy wearied spirit did its heaven regain.

Moaning, and sickly, on the lap of life
Thou laidst thine aching head, and thou didst sigh
A little while, ere to its kindred sky
Thy soul return'd, to taste no more of strife!
Thy lot was happy, little sojourner!
Thou had'st no mother to direct thy ways;
And fortune frown'd most darkly on thy days,
Short as they were. Now, far from the low stir
Of this dim spot, in heaven thou dost repose,
And look'st and smil'st on this world's transient woes.

To December.

Dark visaged visitor comest here
Clad in thy mournful tonic, to repeat
(While glooms, and chilling rains enwrap thy feet)
The solemn requiem of the dying year,
Not undelightful to my listening ear
Sound thy dull show'rs, as, o'er my woodland seat,
Dismal, and drear, the leafless trees thy beat:
Not undelightful, in their wild career,
Is the wild music of thy howling blasts,
Sweeping the groves long aisle, while sullen Time
Thy stormy mantle o'er his shoulder casts,
And, rock'd upon his throne, with chant sublime,
Joins the full-pealing dirge, and Winter weaves
Her dark sepulchral wreath of faded leaves.

An ode to Liberty is too direct an imitation to merit notice; and we are not inclined, by any thing which it offers, to discuss the fourth and last division of the book, which is devoted to prose compositions. These are essays on religious topics, most of them unfinished; and a fair estimate may be formed of the whole by one selection:

ON HUMAN LIFE.

We may with justice term this life a state of expectation. Though all human happiness be at best comparative only, it is made to consist more in anticipation than in actual enjoyment. The things we looked forward to with longing, become insipid in possession. Every new acquisition serves only to open new prospects, until the life of man languishes to its close, and the still unsatisfied eye turns to a state of future existence, and rests at length on objects exempt from human vicissitude. Sad as this representation may seem, it is yet the fairer side of the picture of our mortal affairs. There is something pleasing in the contemplation of successful exertion, however unsatisfactory its object, when attained; but even this source of pleasure is denied to a considerable portion of mankind, the numerous children of disappointment and misfortune who only form schemes of happiness to see them frustrated, and build hopes but to lament over their untimely destruction.

The sanguine principle implanted in our bosoms by the wise author of our being, is the joint source of our sweetest pleasures, and our most cruel woes. Disappointment treads swiftly on the heels of hope. We form projects, and see them blasted. Again from the ashes of the former arises some new pursuit, which is again destroyed and again renewed, in a perpetual series of annihilation and reproduction, until the mind, like the long-used bow, loses its elasticity, and the eyes are at length opened when their late acquired clearness can no longer avail.

If the position be true, that our happiness consists rather in anticipation than in enjoyment, it is also true, that, with regard to every earthly bliss, the man of obtuse faculties and sluggish disposition has infinitely the advantage of the man of talents and exalted understanding. The one founds his plans in mediocrity and moderation; he follows his aim etardily, but with certainty. His probation is fortunately for him extended, and it is free alike from the anxiety of uncertainty, and the apprehension of danger. But the other grasps at worlds. He would wield the thunders of Jehovah, and direct the fate of the Universe; he aims at improbabilities, and he expends all his strength on a stroke; his expectations grow with his failures, until at length the bubble is dispelled, and he looks on the past as the uneasy tracings of a feverish dream.

Here, then, are the tables turned upon wisdom. The very philosopher, who surveys, as from an eminence, the deluded crowds who are pursuing the rainbow of promise beneath him, falls into the very folly he affects to pity, and while he shakes his head at the vagaries of his poor fellow sojourners, turns to contemplate with flattering delight some visionary fabric of his own, ten thousand times more unsubstantial, as it is infinitely more refined.

We have few comments to add: the admirers of Kirtle White have seen higher efforts of his genius than this volume contains; but they will find in it much to confirm their admiration of that estimable Being, and augment the sorrow with which his premature fate has been so generally regretted.

Provence and the Rhone.

An Itinerary of Provence and the Rhone, made during the year 1819.
By John Hughes, A. M. 8vo. pp. 293. London 1822. Cauthorn.

This is an unpretending little volume: there is no affectation of fine writing or fine sentiments in it, and the traveller who, for instruction or amusement, shall feel an inclination to explore that part of the south of France included in the tour, will find this Itinerary an useful companion, pointing out those things on the route which are most worthy of his notice and attention. The author's journey appears to have been more extended than the title-page indicates, as it included parts of Savoy, Piedmont and Switzerland; he has, however, in the present work confined himself to Provence and the Rhone, from Lyons southwards, just touching upon the borders of Savoy.

The larger towns, as Toulon, Marseilles, &c. are passed over somewhat too hastily, and other guides than the present must be sought for by the visitors of those cities, to give any idea of their riches or curiosities; in other respects Mr. Hughes has afforded ample accounts of his journey, and the information which his work displays is highly creditable to the author.

He left Paris in April 1819 for Lyons, at which place he had no great opportunities for observation, as he quitted it in three days; his route continued by Montelimart to Avignon. At Chateau Grignan, the ancient residence of the daughter of Madame Sevigné, he is rather minute, and devotes a whole chapter to the description of a place which he seems to consider immortalized by that lady's name.

From Avignon he passes on to Nîmes and Montpellier. On approaching the latter town,

"Within the last league or two, the country begins rather to improve, and rise into somewhat of an undulating form; but no romantic or interesting feature marks the approach to this celebrated town.

"How I envy you the sight of that delightful Montpellier, of which one reads and hears so much!" exclaims many an untraveller lady no doubt, to her travelled brother or cousin. No place certainly sounds more familiarly in the ear as a novel-scene; and its very name is associated with ideas of beauty, verdure, retirement, orange groves, hanging woods, and all the et ceteras of a spot

"Where simply to feel that we breathe, that we live,
Is worth the best joy that life elsewhere can give."

The truth is, that the Montpellier of the imagination may be found at Vico, Sorrento, Massa di Carrara; or, with a little alteration, in some spots of our own Devonshire coast. The real Montpellier is a large, opulent, well-frequented provincial capital, full of noise and dress, and possessing an air of neatness and fashion, but totally devoid of any thing allied to the poetry of nature. It stands on a round sweeping hill, commanding a considerable extent of land and sea; but the sea coast is chiefly an expanse of low ground and etangs, or salt-water lakes; and the neighbouring hill country, resembling in form a succession of cultivated downs, has neither height nor variety to recommend it.

The author gives a more favourable account of Nice, but pathetically laments that

"It is impossible nevertheless, for a person looking beyond the mere amusement of the moment, to banish a certain train of morbid ideas which connect themselves with the sight of this beautiful town. There are few persons perhaps moving in good English society, whose ears do not familiarly recognize the hopeless phrase of 'being sent to die at Nice,' and many have watched the departure of the wrecks of what was once health, strength and beauty, consigned to this painted sepulchre with the certainty of never returning from it. Thus the very efficacy of the air of Nice, which has brought it into vogue when all other resources have failed, has inseparably connected it in the mind with despondency and decay."

We apprehend some mistake in p. 255, where Mr Hughes says in speaking of the galley slaves at Toulon, "We were informed that there were several colonels, generals, priests and men, who could afford to spend 300 francs a day among this body." We should think incomes of 4000*l.* a year were rather more rare among this class of society than the present paragraph seems to imply.

The Sketches of views on the road aid the ideas, and are embellishments to the work; and the author promises illustrations of the tour in a separate volume, of which the nature and character of these outlines induce a favourable expectation.

ASIATIC DEPARTMENT.

— 575 —

Adventures of a Letter Box.

Some Wag has apparently thought it not too late to remedy past omissions; or finding the Town dull, and Scandal growing vapid, has determined on an experiment to revive, if possible, the late Discussions that kept all tongues as well as pens busily employed during the last month. But the affair has taken a more serious turn than its agitators anticipated, and they will probably find things still duller for them than at present, before it is terminated.

However, to our Notice—The Letter Boxes, one of which faces the Bankshall Street, being built into the wall so as to render it more secure—and the other being with in the passage leading to the Office, and quite as secure as the former—have been examined every morning and evening with the greatest care, since the disputed delivery of the celebrated "CHALLENGE," reprinted in our Paper of November 29:—and the Letters opened in the presence of a second person. The charge of these Boxes has always been entrusted to one of the Office Assistants, who keeps the keys, and besides or without whom no other person has or can have any access to them. On the evening of Tuesday the 10th instant, both Boxes were emptied of their contents and locked as usual; and on the morning of the 11th, (yesterday) among other Letters in the outer Box facing the Street, was found a Copy of the celebrated "CHALLENGE," written in a feigned hand, and rumpled and soiled as if it had been carried about in some one's pocket for a fortnight.

Whether the heart or the hand of the person deputed to deliver it, failed him in the hour of need, we cannot of course pronounce; but the din of war having ceased, he perhaps thought it more safe to acquit himself of his trust in those tranquil days than he might have considered it to be a few weeks ago. There are, however, some slight variations between it and the Printed "CHALLENGE" published in the memorable Extra of JOURN BULL on the 28th ultimo, which induces us to think, after all, that it is not the genuine and original Piece, but a sly Hoax of some Wag who loves fun without caring at whose expence it may be. We shall reprint the one from the BULL, and place this immediately following it, that the slight differences may be seen:

From John Bull.

The Friend to Mr. Bankes expects, that the Journalist will state to the Public, in his Paper of to-morrow, that whenever Mr. Buckingham produces any one of his nine Friends to declare publicly, that he is satisfied with Mr. Buckingham's reply to the Friend of Bankes; and his explanation of the charge brought against him, by the Friend to Mr. Burckhardt, the Friend to Mr. Bankes will proclaim his name as openly to the Public, and let the Public judge.

27th Nov.

From the Manuscript.

The Friend to Mr. Banks expects; that The Journalist will state to the Public, in his Paper of tomorrow, that whenever Mr Buckingham produces one of his nine friends, to declare publicly, that he is Satisfied with Mr Buckingham's reply to The Friend to Mr Bankes, and his explanation of the charge brought against him by the Friend to Mr Burckhardt, The Friend to Mr Bankes will proclaim his name as openly to The Public, and let the Public judge

24 Nov.

To The Editor of
The Calcutta Journal

1st. It may be observed that in the Manuscript, Mr. Bankes's name is spelt in the first line without the e.—2nd. The word Public is also spelt throughout the Manuscript with a k.—3rd. The word *any* after *produces*, which appears in the printed version, is not to be found in the written one.—4th. The words "reply to the Friend of Bankes" in the printed copy, are changed to the words "reply to the Friend to Mr. Bankes" in the written paper.—5th. The date of the Manuscript is first written 24 Nov. and then most clumsily altered to 27 Nov. Surely, a real Copy of so short a Document could not have contained so many variations

as these; unless indeed the agitated conscience of the individual should have rendered it impossible for him to write 10 lines without 5 such marked discrepancies.

The Original will be preserved among the Records of the Office for the inspection of the curious, and shewn to any Visitor who may feel a desire to see it for himself: if, indeed, all curiosity on this ridiculous Bravado has not been long since at an end.

Defence of the Duke of Wellington.

To the Editor of the Journal.

SIR,

It is, I dare say, in the recollection of many of your readers that a certain Great Captain declared that Meetings called for the expression of Public Opinion were *mere Farces*. Whether or no this opinion of the illustrious Commander was engendered by his experience of Indian matters, there are no certain means of ascertaining; but had his residence in India been prolonged to the present time, I should have no hesitation in concluding that he was influenced in no small degree by actual observation. In candor, we must admit that the Theatrical phrase borrowed by the Noble General, is by no means inaptly employed to designate certain descriptions of Assemblies. If, for instance, we could imagine a Public Meeting, where stage-effect is every thing, where the *Dramatis Personæ*, are very few compared with the spectators, well-drilled by frequent rehearsals to their respective parts, and exceedingly dependant upon the smiles of those they address; where few are admitted behind the curtain, and where a vast deal of hearty laughter is excited; such a Meeting I say, if such could be conceived to exist, might well be said to have a *Farceical* complexion, and nothing would be wanting but a "*Veluti in Speculum*" or a Statue of Shakespear, to complete the delusion, and render the Scene in the highest degree Theatrical, I have said this purely in justice to the DUKE OF WELLINGTON, who has in my opinion been harshly censured for a very ingenious figure of speech. I hear, by the way, a rumour that his Grace is to be our next Governor General, but that can in no way affect me, who am

AN OBSCURE INDIVIDUAL,

Native Buildings.

To the Editor of the Journal.

SIR,

Permit us, with due deference, to solicit the favor of your giving an early insertion in your valuable JOURNAL, of our Letter dated the 30th ultimo, regarding the Destruction of Houses and Tanks belonging to the Native Inhabitants; for which purpose it was transmitted to you. You will perceive that our motives are just and reasonable: and in being desirous of giving publicity to our representation, we are labouring as far as it lies in our power, to obtain that redress through the medium of the Press.

This explanation will, we hope, sufficiently plead as an excuse in our behalf for the trouble we have given you.

We are, Sir, your most obedient and humble Servants,

Calcutta, Dec. 9, 1822.

NATIVES OF CALCUTTA.

NOTE.

We do not know how far it would be safe to agitate this question through the medium of the English Press; and would therefore recommend an Appeal to the Lottery Committee, or a Memorial to Government, by those who feel themselves aggrieved, which might be published in the Native Papers, with the Replies or Proceedings consequent on their presentation. The present Government cannot justly be accused of neglecting or disrespecting the prejudices of the Natives; our own impression is, that while the horrid Superstitions at Jaggaiah and the Burning of Widows remain unabished, no Friend of Humanity can consider the Government to have done all that is safely practicable to root out and destroy those prejudices.—Ed.

Dr. Wallich.

SIR, To the Editor of the Journal.

Seeing in this day's JOURNAL, a Query under the Signature of (an inquisitor) SCRUTATOR, I am induced to trouble you with these lines, to request you will say in reply, that the entry of Dr. Wallich's name in the List of the British Inhabitants of Calcutta, was authorized, altho' he was precluded from doing it personally, and offering the tribute due to the august family, in union with those present. Absence does not cause ingratitude; and in the present case it would be tantamount to ingratitude were he to omit acknowledging the (general) regret he feels in contemplating the approaching departure of those in whom he has in every instance had a Friend and Patron.

How does this Mr. SCRUTATOR know, but that such a request has been received in Calcutta?—Your's, &c.

December 10, 1822.

A FRIEND.

Names to the Address.

SIR, To the Editor of the Journal.

Where argument fails, declamation is always substituted, and that often silences when it cannot convince. The letter signed SCRUTATOR, which you have inserted, and illustrated by commenting on its contents, is apparently introduced in to-day's JOURNAL for no other purpose than the one of holding up an individual to the contempt of your readers by styling him a "Portuguese British Inhabitant," and inserting "*Portuguese*" in italics, with a view to render the term more conspicuous and derogatory, considering the prejudices and a state of feeling at this Presidency. For if I do not hit upon the true motive, why let me ask was the name introduced at all. Another person's name stands before the one hinted to be signed twice, and I see no reason for excluding one signature in order to fix on the other, except the one of an endeavour to lower him. But, Sir, when I tell you that that Gentleman is no more a "Portuguese British Inhabitant" than you or I am, you will be able duly to estimate

"The trivial terms, the borrow'd wit,
The similes that nothing fit,"

of this scrutinizing deprecator. That Gentleman is the son of an English Officer, a Captain in the Company's Service, who died at Furruckabad on the 5th August 1777, and a man of more kind-heartedness, more courteous in his manners, more benevolent in his disposition, and more of real friendship in him does not exist; not a detail of poverty or sorrow reaches him that he does not either by pecuniary assistance or useful influence endeavour to meliorate and lessen;—than why is this "ungrateful task" undertaken by SCRUTATOR, who stupidly enough suggests 1st and 2d being added to our names. Are we to wear badges like the Chimney Sweepers and Drovers of London? or are we to be marked, numbered, and registered as the metropolitan hacks are? for without these distinguishing designations, 1st and 2d, and so on, would be utterly useless. These are above three score persons of my name, and at least half a dozen with the same baptismal initial, therefore to note us distinctly we must be branded in the forehead, or wear any other proof in evidence of identity which the Barrator may suggest. In the list adverted to there are three "J. Smiths;" was any inquiry made regarding the family and place of abode of those subscribers? or was "the ungrateful task" left for some other Perturbator, Explorer, or Collator to perform? No, Sir, it was a trick to gain credit for more sense and knowledge than the man was worth, and I am sorry you have given currency to it.—Your obedient Servant,

December 11, 1822.

C. SMITH.

NOTE.

We do not think the motive of SCRUTATOR more questionable than the motive of any other Correspondent. In a controversy of this nature, all that is to be asked is, are the facts true, and the opinions just. Our uniform practice is to let all parties be heard, and as far as it is safe and practicable we shall always observe that course, till we are convinced that it is wrong:—ED.

Portuguese.

To the Editor of the Journal.

SIR,

With reference to the last paragraph of SCRUTATOR's Letter in this day's Paper, permit me to add to the name therein quoted, that of *Thomas D'Bruyn*, as also a long list of *Sinaes, Rodriguer, DaCruz, DaCostas*, and others, who have so little understood the subject as to subscribe their names to an Address purporting to be from the *British Inhabitants* of Calcutta. I think that the appending of such names detracts in great measure from the value of the Address.

December 11, 1822.

NOTE.

A NON-PRESUMER.

We can say little more on this subject than we said yesterday; except to add, that if one were to reject all the names of Foreigners, including French, Dutch, Danish, and Portuguese,—all the names of temporary Sojourners, including Commanders and Officers of Free Traders and other Ships in the River,—all the names of East Indian-born, whether wholly of Portuguese, or half of Mahomedan and Hindoo extraction,—all the names of Native Indians, including the Sircars and Writers of various Houses, and of Armenians and others—besides all those who are absent from the Presidency, but have sent their names to be subscribed by others,—the real number of "*British Inhabitants* of Calcutta" would be much reduced: and if a further analysis were to take place, by which those who understood and approved of all that has passed within the last seven years could be separated from those who neither understood the whole of what had been done nor approved of even much that they did understand, the number would be reduced still more. Indeed, according to the Territorial Secretary's ingenious position, advanced at the Public Meeting at the Town Hall, namely, that those who were most intimately acquainted with the public acts of the Government were best qualified to draw up the Address, it should have been wholly the work of the Public Functionaries in general, and the Six Secretaries in particular, for no persons can be so well qualified, according to that rule, as themselves. It is true that they would in such cases have to commend acts emanating in a measure from their suggestions; but there would be no greater inconsistency in this, than in seeing one Secretary on the Committee, others at the Meeting, and others again with their names to the Address.

But to us, the entire absence of all mention of THE INDIAN PRESS, a subject that has engrossed more of public attention than any one other topic that can be named within the same space of time, betrays an inconsistency that no reasoning can reconcile. If what has been done on that important question is right, it should have been praised as it deserved;—if wrong, a total silence on the subject can only be accounted for on the principle that the Meeting was convened to render applause only where it was due, and not to advert to points which could not fairly be spoken of with praise. Even in this point of view, however, the entire omission of the INDIAN PRESS, in an enumeration of the acts of Lord Hastings's Government, is a direct censure on what has been done on that subject, and so it will be viewed in England when compared with the celebrated Madras Address and the Reply to it in June 1819. If the professions then made had been uniformly fulfilled, no Public Meeting here could have been conducted in the way in which the last was. The Press, subject only to the Laws and a Jury, would have done its duty to all parties: and an Address, voted after the Public Scrutiny then so justly lauded as being salutary in its influence even over those whose intentions were most pure, would have done higher honour to the Noble Personage to whom it was offered, than all the Statues, Crosses, Plays, Balls, or Suppers, that could be voted or given, to testify, by joy and festivity, the heartfelt sorrow and inexpressible regret which these symptoms of melancholy and dejection are so well calculated to denote.

Administrations to Estates.

Lieutenant George Herbert Rattray, late of the Honorable Company's Bengal Military Establishment, deceased—James Weir Hogg, Esq.

Lieutenant Colonel William Augustus Thompson, late of the Honorable Company's Bengal Military Establishment, deceased—Lieutenant John Henry Simmonds.

Mr. Thomas Jennings, late of Calcutta, deceased—Mrs. Charlotte Jennings.

Mr. Mathew Smith, late of Howrah, Ship Builder, deceased—James Young, Esq.

Mrs. Cecilia De Mello e Silva, late of the Town of Calcutta, Widow, deceased—Mr. Francis De Silva.

Raumoney Raur, late of Gurrahatta in Calcutta, deceased—Kasubram Chuckerbutty.

Madras News.

Madras, November 26, 1822.—*Theatre Pantheon.*—We have now the pleasure of announcing the fulfilment of our predictions respecting a Benefit Performance at this Theatre in aid of the Irish Fund. The Mount Corps Dramatique has nobly come forward on this occasion, and the Performers have one and all tendered their dramatic abilities to promote the objects of the Charity. We hasten to notify that the admirable Comedy of the "Clandestine Marriage," will be enacted on Wednesday the 18th proximo. The performance will take place under the most flattering auspices, and we doubt not an overflowing House will reward with approbation the benevolent intentions of the Actors.

Madras Lottery.—The Madras Lottery concluded on Friday. The grand Prize of a Lac of Rupees fell to the lucky holder of No. 2234, which we understand was bought by a respectable Native who sold it again to a person residing at Pondicherry. The other large Prizes were No. 3569 a Prize of 5,000 Rupees. No. 4848 a Prize of 1,000 Rupees. Nos. 2450, 2816, and 4623, Prizes of 500 Rupees each. No. 4602 a Prize of 300 Rupees.

Homeward Bound Ships.—The homeward bound ship NANCY went to Sea on Friday night. She touches at the Cape. In addition to the Passengers enumerated in Friday's Supplement, the following gentleman went home in her: Lieutenants Despard, Hutcheson, Impett, Harrison and McAlpine, of H. M. 53d Regiment. In about three weeks several of our homeward bound Vessels from Calcutta may be expected to arrive.—*Madras Courier.*

Reply.

ARMED LIBERTY MEN, *versus* ARMED PEOPLE BOUND TO CHURCH.

SIR,

To the Editor of the Journal.

By the Letter in your JOURNAL of this day, signed M. J. DE FERITAZ, Commander of the Portuguese Armed Ship ROSALIA, stationed, as he informs us, in the River Hooghly, which, begging his pardon, I was not aware of before, it appears that I was indeed mistaken as to the Marines, who came on shore from that ship, armed, on Sunday last, being on liberty; but I feel convinced, had your Correspondent met them as I did, not being apprized where they were going, he would never for a moment have imagined that they were on duty; and had he met them in the capacity of their Officer, he could not have felt flattered at the order they exhibited. Whenever conducting either Seamen or Marines on shore to Church from any of His Britannic Majesty's Ships, which in my younger days has been a duty that sometimes devolved on me—the strictest order, regularity and silence was maintained, the Officer of the party preceding, and the people following, forming two, three or four abreast according to their number; but in this instance, can your Correspondent wonder at my mistake, when I assure him that, but for the dress, I saw no distinction among the people in question? Order there certainly was none; no body led, and none appeared inclined to be the last; some were a hundred yards a-head when the last man, who by the by had half a dozen swords under his arm, was yet on the Ghaut: a friend who was present was the first to remark the circumstance, and observed, supposing them from these circumstances to be liberty men, that it was highly improper to suffer them to come on shore armed.

I am sorry I should have been drawn into such controversy, but hope it may ultimately prove of utility, and beg to assure your Correspondent that my motive for bringing the circumstance to the notice of the Public was by no means dictated by personality, but actually, as I subscribe myself,

December 11, 1822.

PRO BONO PUBLICO.

HIGH WATER AT CALCUTTA, THIS-DAY.

	H.	M.
Morning	2	10
Evening	2	34

Physicians Afloat.

SIR,

To the Editor of the Journal.

Allow me, through the medium of your JOURNAL, to suggest to the proper Authorities the great benefits which would result to the maritime community visiting Calcutta, if one or two Medical Gentlemen were appointed by Government with a suitable salary, one of which to be in constant attendance at the Banks-hall, similar to the establishment in the Royal Dock-yards in England, to answer any calls of emergency either in cases of Cholera or accidents, which but too frequently and almost daily occur on the river.—It would, I feel convinced, be the means of saving the lives of many of my brother sailors, and prevent many young men, officers as well as seamen, from being imposed upon by Medical men attached to free traders, &c. &c. &c.

A case of the latter description having lately come to my notice, on board a ship but a few cables-lengths distant from mine, and one which reflects very little to the credit of the party, I have to request that you will give it a corner in your valuable paper, to serve as a warning to the unguarded.

Mr. —'s servant being taken ill a few evenings ago, he sent on board a free trader not above a cable's length off, knowing she carried a Surgeon, and requested he would step on board to see the man; the Doctor made his appearance and prescribed a slight dose of Physic. Mr. —on the same occasion complaining that he felt rather unwell, the Gentleman prescribed a dose of Salts, both of which he sent on board shortly after.

The servant recovered, but Mr. — on the following day feeling no better, called on board the * * * * * to see the Doctor, who gave him 20 grains of calomel; this last proving more efficacious, the Medical Gentleman was not again applied to. Three days after, Mr. — received a bill for 20 rupees, worded as follows—

"To Medicine and Attendance for yourself and Servant, Sa. Rs. 20"

This, Sir, is the only instance during fifteen years that I have followed the Sea, where I ever heard a similar demand made on an Officer of one Ship by a Surgeon regularly attached to another, but without reverting any further to the demand of 20 Rs. from the mate of a ship, who perhaps is ill able to spare that sum, you will be no less surprised at what followed.

Mr. — being very busy at the moment the bill was presented to him, requested the Sirkar to call again on the day following, when to his surprise he received the following note, which is hardly less elegant than the genteel intimation of a Tradesman, lately published in your JOURNAL.

"SIR,—I am somewhat surprised you have not as yet thought proper to pay the debt you owe me for Medicine and Attendance on yourself and servant. I have enquired of the Medical Practitioners on shore, respecting the amount I ought to charge you; being altogether ignorant of such matters myself; and I find that they consider 40 Rupees, under the circumstances of the case, to be a proper charge. I have however, only charged you the one half of that sum, and have to request you will settle the amount immediately; otherwise I shall be under the necessity of taking such steps to procure payment as may be disagreeable both to you and myself. I am, Sir, Your's &c."

I have only to add that Mr. —sent his Sirkar to pay the bill immediately, and sincerely hope this intimation may prove a warning to my brother seamen, as to whom they apply for Medical advice. Of this I am convinced, that Surgeons in His Majesty's or the Honorable Company's Service would never have even hinted at a remuneration in a similar case, and I know several respectable Medical Men in Calcutta who would have better proportioned their charges to the young man's means, and who would certainly never have thought of enforcing payment by harsh measures.—I am, Sir, Your's, &c.

A SAILOR, AND AN ENEMY

December 9, 1822.

TO IMPOSITION.

Public Notice.

In compliance with the following Requisition, a Meeting of the British Inhabitants of Calcutta will be held at the Town Hall on Monday, the 16th instant, at eleven o'clock in the forenoon, for the purpose therein specified.

Dec. 9, 1822. JAMES CALDER, Sheriff.

To James Calder, Esq. Sheriff of Calcutta.

SIR,

The MARQUIS OF HASTINGS have declined the compliment voted to him by the Second Resolution of the General Meeting of the British Inhabitants of Calcutta held on the 25th day of November, we request that you will be pleased to convene a Meeting of the British Inhabitants of Calcutta, at the Town Hall on an early day for the purpose of determining on some other and appropriate testimony of their respect and veneration for the pre-eminent virtues of the Most Noble the MARQUIS OF HASTINGS.

We have the honour to be, Sir, Your most obedient Servants,

(Signed) G. Udny, J. Palmer, J. Pattle, P. Treves, R. C. Plowden, C. R. Lindsay, R. Stevenson, H. McKenzie, T. Hardwick, S. Swinton, H. Wood, C. Trower, J. Shakespear, H. Shakespear, and J. Parson.

December 9, 1822.

Shipping Arrivals.**CALCUTTA.**

Date	Names of Vessels	Flags	Commanders	From Whence	Left
Dec. 11	Alexander	British	R. Dickie	Bencoolen	Sept. 17
11	Resolution	Portg.	T. L. Boratho	Lisbon	Aug. 1

BOMBAY.

Date	Names of Vessels	Flags	Commanders	From Whence	Left
Nov. 15	Eliza	British	P. Bayras	Cochin	Oct. 3
18	Thetis	British	H. Wyndham	Calicut	Nov. 6
19	H. M. St. Sophia	British	G. French	Goa	—

Shipping Departures.**BOMBAY.**

Date	Names of Vessels	Flags	Commanders	Destination
Nov. 10	Lord Castlereagh	British	J. K. Durant	London

Stations of Vessels in the River.**CALCUTTA, DECEMBER 10, 1822.**

At Diamond Harbour.—GOLCONDA, LORD HUNGERFORD, proceeded down.—PASCOA, DUKE OF BEDFORD, EXMOUTH, and FRANCIS WARREN, outward-bound, remain.

Kedgerie.—His Majesty's Frigate GLASGOW.—GENERAL LECOR, (P.) and H. C. S. ASTELL, inward-bound, remain.—ALEXANDER, inward-bound, remains.—THETIS, DOLPHIN, (brig), JAVA, JANE, HOPE, ELIZA, and NOUVELLE ALLIANCE, passed down.

New Anchorage.—H. C. Ships PRINCE REGENT, DORSETSHIRE, WARREN HASTINGS, MARCHIONESS OF ELY, and WINGHELSEA.

Passengers.

Passengers per LORD CASTLEREAGH, from Bombay for London.—Mrs. Rich, Mrs. Babington, Miss Proud, Doctor Eckford, Doctor Daw, Captain Elwood, Lieutenant Forbes, Lieutenant Ottey, Lieutenant Justice; Children: Miss Lucy Henderson Dunsterville, Masters R. Buchanan, and S. Babington.

Passengers per BENARES, from Bussorah to Bombay.—Assistant Surgeon Riach, and Captain Remon.

Marriages.

At St. Thomas's Church, Bombay, on the 9th ultimo, by the Reverend H. DAVIS, Mr. GEORGE OSBORNE, to JANE, fourth Daughter of the late Mr. THOMAS HUDDON.

Births.

At Serampore, on the 6th instant, Mrs. SAMUEL CHILL, JUDG. of a Son.

At Monghyr, on the 28th ultimo, the Lady of Captain PAGE, of a Son.

The Peaceful Tomb.**I.**

Weep not for me when I am gone
To my welcome rest,
Oh! lay no chilly stone
Upon my quiet breast:
But let my grassy Tomb be made
In a most still and ever-verdant shade,
Where blossoms scent the tranquil air,
And the green drooping Willow laves
Its boughs in some bright silent stream,
Where the murmuring of far-off waves
Sounds soft as Music in a dream,
Oh! lay me there.

II.

Let fresh smooth turf be all my grave,
But let beautiful flowers
Gently around it wave,
To mark the unchimed hours
In that hush'd bower of repose
By their sweet opening and dewy close.
Let violets, and all that bloom
On sunny banks, there woo the Bees,
Shaded from Summer's noontide heat
By thick and fragrant Linden trees,
To hum their pastoral Music sweet
Around my Tomb.—

III.

Oh lay me where the mildest beams
Of the parting Sun
May rest in golden streams,
Ere his bright course be done.
Then, while the gentle Stock Dove's plaint
Echoes through purple woods, far off and faint,
Let Lovers come, but not to weep,
I ask no tears, save that soft dew
Which falls beneath the evening star.
But let them Love's pure vows renew
With hearts as true as Angels are,
Where calm I sleep.

BERNARD WYCLIEFF.

Errata.

To the Editor of the Journal.

SIR,

I shall feel obliged by your noticing the following errors which crept into my letter by the negligence of the Copyist, signed DULGERE KHAN, 8th instant.

Page 541, of the 10th instant.—Instead of "no Pension has been granted to any Local Officers." READ "no Pensions have been granted to Local Officers."—Instead of "a suitable testimonials" READ "suitable testimonial."

Your's very obediently,

December 11, 1822.

DULGERE KHAN.

Deaths.

At Sholapore, on the 12th ultimo, Captain T. HALL, of His Majesty's 67th Regiment.

At Sholapore, on the 13th ultimo, Quarter Master GORMLEY, of His Majesty's 67th Regiment.

At Ryepoor, on the 27th of October, CATHERINE FLORA, the infant Daughter of Lieutenant Colonel VANE AGNEW, C. B. aged 1 year and 8 months.

At Black Town, on the 10th of Oct., at his house in Cundoo Chitty Street, of the Spasmodic Cholera, ADAM TATE GIBBONS, Esq. Merchant, aged 50 years, deeply lamented by his wife and family, and a numerous circle of friends. Mr. GIBBONS was highly respected and admired in his private character for sensibility, benevolence, and honour.

CURRENT VALUE OF GOVERNMENT SECURITIES.

Remittable,.....Premium.....	24 0 a 24 8
Non-Remittable,.....ditto.....	15 3 a 16 0